

Clinton County Connection

Published by Clinton County Electric Cooperative

Volume 15 Number 6 • email - cceci@cceci.com • Web page - www.cceci.com • December 2007



Across the manager's desk



First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who took the time to attend one of our Area Meetings, which were held the last week in October. It's always good to meet new members and renew old friendships.

In this month's issue of the Connections newsletter, we are asking you to write your legislators to express concern for potential federal climate change legislation. The potential negative impact on the rates you pay for electricity could be enormous if a piece of legislation is passed that does not properly address the

climate change issue and associated cost.

Inside this issue, you will find the names and address for our federal legislators who will be working on, and ultimately, voting on, climate change legislation. We have also included a sample letter for you to use, if you wish.

This legislation has the potential to be devastating to your cost of electricity if not properly addressed. Please take a few minutes to write each of your elected officials to express your concern.

On behalf of the board of directors and the rest of the employees of the cooperative, I want to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Co-ops Buy into Prairie State Energy

Clinton County Electric Cooperative's wholesale power supplier, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) located at the Lake of Egypt near Marion, is facing load growth of approximately 50 percent in the next few years. In order to meet future power needs, SIPC has evaluated options including construction of a new plant, long-term contract to purchase power from another supplier and joint ownership of a power plant.

On Aug. 30, the SIPC Board of Directors voted to acquire 125 megawatts of the Prairie State Energy Campus. Prairie State is a planned 1,600 megawatt supercritical coal-fueled power plant to be located in Washington County, Ill. near Marissa. The project has been under development for some time and construction is slated to begin in early October. Prairie State will provide base-load electricity to dozens of communities in southern Illinois and will serve approximately 1.7 million families from Missouri to Virginia.

Prairie State is owned by numerous partners including: American Municipal Power-Ohio; the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency; Indiana Municipal Power Agency; Ken-

tucky Municipal Power Agency; Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission; Northern Illinois Municipal Power Agency and Prairie Power Inc.

Prairie State will create more than 450 permanent jobs and will annually inject nearly \$100 million in economic benefits. The bulk of construction trades hiring is beginning this fall, and Prairie State will employ more than 2,000 workers when construction activity peaks in the second half of 2009. Units one and two are expected to come on line in 2011 and 2012. Prairie State will feature advanced technology resulting in high efficiencies while achieving emissions that are far superior to America's current coal-fired generating fleet. Prairie State will be fueled from an adjacent coal mine, thereby minimizing fuel and related transportation costs.

SIPC's current generation portfolio consists of coal and natural gas fired generating units, all of which are located at SIPC's Lake of Egypt facility south of Marion. The ownership share of Prairie State will diversify SIPC's generation mix. Moreover, participation in a large plant provides economies of scale unavailable in a small unit.



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 Langhauser at Clinton County Electric Cooperative at 618-526-7282 or ask your high school guidance counselor.



SAFE AND Sparkling



We want your holiday season to sparkle. Glowing Christmas tree lights and festively decorated houses are magical parts of the season. But remember to keep your tree watered, use only UL approved lights that are in good condition, place extension cords out of traffic and not under rugs, and unplug lights before you go to bed. When you decorate the outside, use only lights rated for outdoor use, and watch for overhead power lines when using a ladder to put up your decorations. And make sure you don't overload your electric circuits, a major cause of electrical fire.

Clinton County Electric Cooperative

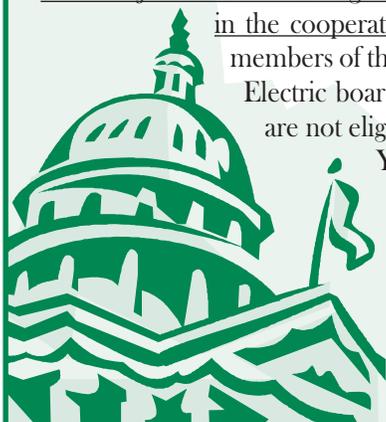
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Youth To Washington Tour and Youth Day in Springfield

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**

Bylaws specify nomination procedure

Section 4.06. Nominations. It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to appoint, more than ninety (90) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which Board trustees are to be elected, a committee on election and credentials consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than nine (9) members with at least one (1) member from each district from which a trustee is to be elected. No employee, trustee, Officer, known candidate, or close relative (as hereinafter defined) of any of the above may serve on such committee. The purpose of the committee is to review the qualifications of petitioning nominees and to conduct the election of trustees. To be nominated by petition, a candidate for trustee must file a petition for nomination signed by at least twenty-five (25) members, but not more than fifty (50) members. Signatures may come from the entire Cooperative membership. A joint membership constitutes only one member. Nominations by petition must be picked up and filed not more than ninety (90) days or less than forty-five (45) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which trustees are to be elected. The Election and Credentials Committee, or subcommittee of same must meet to determine if the candidates meet the qualifications for trustee. Upon establishment of the fact that a nominee for trustee lacks eligibility under these Bylaws, it shall be the duty of the Election and Credentials Committee to disqualify such nominee. If there are no nominations by Petition for trustee in any district in which a trustee is to be elected, it is the duty of the Board of trustees to appoint a member to serve in that position. At least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of members, the Election and Credentials Committee shall certify a list of nominees for trustee to the secretary. The secretary shall then post at the principal office of the Cooperative, at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of members, a list of the nominations for trustee to be elected, listing separately the nominee(s) for each trustee district. The secretary shall also be responsible for mailing, with the Notice of Meeting or separately, but at least five (5) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Board members to be elected and the names and addresses of the nominees. No nominations may be made from the floor. Nominees' names from the same district may be rotated on the ballot so that each nominee's name is on the ballot in the same position as equal number

of times as possible. Notwithstanding anything in this section contained, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of trustee. The Election and Credentials Committee shall elect its own chairman and secretary at its initial meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the committee to establish or approve the manner of conducting any ballot or other voting, to pass upon all questions that may arise with respect to registration of members in person, to count all ballots or other votes cast in any election or in any other manner, to rule upon the effect of any ballots or other votes irregularly or indecisively marked or cast, to rule upon all questions that may arise relating to member voting in the election of trustees and to pass upon any protest filed with respect to election or to conduct affecting the result of the election. In exercising the responsibility, the committee shall have available to it the advice of counsel provided by the Cooperative. In the event a protest or objection is filed concerning any election, such protest or objection must be filed not more than three (3) business days following the adjournment of the meeting in which the voting is conducted. The committee shall thereupon be reconvened, upon notice from its chairman, not less than seven (7) days after such protest or objection is filed. The committee shall hear such evidence as is presented by the protestor(s) or objector(s), who may be heard in person, by counsel, or both, and any opposing evidence; and the committee, by a vote of a majority of those present and voting, shall, within a reasonable time but not later than thirty (30) days after such hearing, render its decision, the result of which may be to affirm the election, to change the outcome thereof, or to set aside. The committee's decision (as reflected by a majority of those actually present and voting) on all matters covered by this Section shall be final. The committee may not affirmatively act on any matter unless a majority of the committee is present.

For a list of Election and Credentials Committee members, date of meeting, a petition or any other information concerning the nominations procedure, please contact: James B. Riddle, President, Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., 475 N. Main Street, Breese, IL 62230, (618) 526-7282.

RECIPES

Recipes taken from the December
Illinois Country Living magazine

Holiday Cheese Ball

1 (8-oz.) pkg. shredded Mozzarella cheese
1 (8-oz.) pkg. shredded Cheddar cheese
2 (8-oz.) pkgs. cream cheese, softened
1/2 C. ham, chopped
1 tsp. garlic powder
Paprika

In a medium bowl, mix all ingredients except paprika and form into a ball. Sprinkle paprika on wax paper and roll cheese ball in paprika until covered completely. Place on a plate and serve with crackers. Note: You can use chopped nuts instead of paprika if you like.

Festive Eggnog Sauce

1/2 C. whipping cream
2 T. powdered sugar
1/2 C. eggnog
1 T. rum or brandy (opt.)

In a small bowl, beat cream with sugar until stiff. Gently fold in eggnog and rum until they blend well. Cover and chill. Just before serving, gently blend again. Serve with pudding, fresh fruit, ice cream or over angel food cake. Makes 1-1/2 cups.

Coconut Macaroons

1 C. Eagle brand milk
4 C. shredded coconut
1 tsp. vanilla
3/4 tsp. almond extract

Blend together all ingredients. Drop about 1 teaspoon of batter an inch apart onto well-greased cookie sheets. Bake at 350° for 8-10 minutes or until lightly brown. Remove from cookie sheet immediately. Makes 3 dozen.

Peppermint Bark

2 lbs. white vanilla bark, broken into pieces
1-1/2 C. peppermint candy, finely crushed

Melt bark in a double boiler. Do not let the candy boil. Never allow liquid to get into the candy. Combine candy and peppermint. Spread a thin layer on waxed paper that has been placed on a cookie sheet. Allow to cool and harden about 20 minutes. Turn out on a cutting board and peel off waxed paper. Cut into rectangles. If you decide to tint the candy, you must use paste food coloring, not liquid.



For a Healthier You....

For a quick breakfast on the go try:

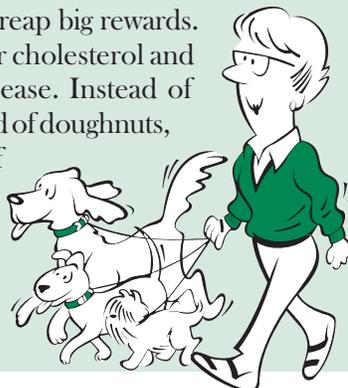
*Bright Eyed and Blueberry yogurt blend smoothie from Jamba Juice, 380 calories and 1 grams of fat.

*Hardee's Pancake Platter and half container of syrup, 345 calories and 5 grams of fat.

*Fruit 'n Yogurt Parfait and snack size Fruit & Walnut Salad from McDonald's, 370 calories and 10 gm fat.

Adding just 5 minutes to your walking routine will add about 500 steps, which will help you burn additional calories. If you're tight on time, just add 2 and a half minutes to your routine, and you'll still reap big rewards.

Some foods can help lower cholesterol and reduce your risk for heart disease. Instead of potato chips, eat walnuts; instead of doughnuts, eat angel food cake; instead of ranch dressing, use vinaigrette dressing; instead of buttery popcorn, eat pretzels; and instead of whole milk, drink skim milk.



Other Health Facts

Twenty-eight million Americans suffer from migraines each year. Seventy percent of those suffering are women.

Heart attacks, strokes and cardiac arrests seem like they come out of the blue, but most don't. Two triggers are heavy physical exertion, such as shoveling snow, running and other strenuous activities; and bouts of anger (one outburst can increase the chance of having a heart attack up to 14-times during the following two hours). Other triggers include flu, pneumonia, sexual activity, overeating, severe hot or cold weather, air pollution, natural disasters, drug use, grief and lack of sleep.

The average 40-year-old man would save \$949 annually in medical costs by exercising regularly.

Lowering blood pressure can stop or even reverse heart disease. A two-year study of 274 people found those with an average blood pressure level above 140 mm Hg systolic or 90 mm Hg diastolic showed a significant increase in the amount of plaque in their arteries. Those with a systolic pressure of less than 120 and diastolic pressure of less than 80 actually showed signs of reversal of coronary disease.

Minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting of Members Held Thursday, March 15th, 2007

The 69th Annual Meeting of the Members of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held at the Central High School gymnasium, Route 50 West, Breese, Illinois on Thursday, March 15, 2007, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Joseph Voss, chairman of the Cooperative, at 7:30 p.m.

Ronald L. Becker, Secretary-Treasurer of the cooperative, acted as secretary and kept the minutes thereof.

Secretary-Treasurer Becker reported there was a quorum present.

The invocation was given by Vernon Mohesky, a trustee from District No. 3.

Upon motion made by Jim Endres, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the rules of the meeting were accepted by the membership as proposed.

Chairman Voss introduced special guests present at the Annual Meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer Becker read the official notice of the meeting and informed the members that proof of mailing of the meeting notices and number of members is evidenced by receipt of mailing from the U.S. Postal Service.

Upon a motion by Wayland Middendorf, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the minutes of the 68th Annual Meeting were approved as they appeared in the December 2006 issue of the Cooperative newsletter, Clinton County Connections.

At this time, Chairman Voss introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Tim Reeves, President and General Manager of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative.

Chairman Voss then addressed the membership, thanking everyone for attending the 2007 Annual Meeting of Members. He commented on the capital credit checks given out at this year's meeting; on the financial condition of the Cooperative; and elaborated on the wind storm and the ice storm the cooperative experienced in 2006. Voss also reminded the members in attendance of the safety precautions to be used when installing home generators. He concluded his report by thanking the employees for their diligence, the board of directors and the Advisory Committee for their valuable input.

Secretary-Treasurer Ron Becker then presented the annual financial report of the cooperative, ending Dec. 31, 2006.

Chairman Voss then introduced President and COO of the cooperative, Jim Riddle. President Riddle discussed Clinton County Electric rates, W.P.C.A. and facility charge;

wholesale power cost; 2006 storms; Southern Services, LLC; and automated meter reading. He told the members in attendance that the cooperative's rates will continue to remain relatively stable and that the cooperative will conduct, through the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, a Cost of Service Study in 2007-2008 in order to insure that rates remain equitable. Riddle concluded his report by thanking the employees, the Board of Directors, the Advisory Committee and the members for their continued support.

Upon motion by Jill Varel, seconded and a vote taken thereon, all of the reports given by the officers and president thus far were accepted.

Next, Chairman Voss informed the members that, per Article 4, Section 4.06 of the Cooperative Bylaws, an Election and Credentials Committee was appointed by the Board of Trustees at their regular monthly board meeting on Nov. 28, 2006. He then called upon Ron Becker, Secretary of the Cooperative, to give the report of the Election and Credentials Committee.

Becker reported that the Election & Credentials Committee met on Jan. 29, 2007. He informed the membership in attendance that, since there were no contests for trustees in any of the districts, those trustees nominated may be elected by acclamation, if desired.

Upon motion by Jerome Rakers, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the following trustees were elected by acclamation to serve three year terms beginning on March 15, 2007: Cary Dickinson from District No. 1; Joseph A. Voss from District No. 2; and Richard S. Timmermann from District No. 3.

A "years of service" award was given to Line Foreman Gary Albers for 35 years of continued service to the cooperative.

There being no further business to come before the 69th Annual Meeting of Members of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., upon a motion by Wayland Middendorf, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. by Chairman Voss.

Following adjournment, four cash prizes were awarded.

Joseph A. Voss, *Chairman*
Ronald L. Becker, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Clinton County Electric Cooperative

Sample letter to Federal legislators

U.S. House

(depends on co-op member's address as to which one they would write)

The Hon. John Shimkus
Member of Congress
508 W. Main St.
Collinsville, IL 62234

The Hon. Jerry Costello
Member of Congress
144 Lincoln Place Court, Suite 4
Belleville, IL 62221

U.S. Senate

The Hon. Dick Durbin
U.S. Senate
525 South Eighth St.
Springfield, IL 62703

The Hon. Barack Obama
U.S. Senate
607 East Adams St., Suite 1520
Springfield, IL 62701

Dear Senator (or Representative) (last name):

As a member/owner of Clinton County Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Breese, Illinois, I am writing regarding federal climate change legislation. My understanding is that there are at least nine such bills currently pending before the U.S. Congress. Almost all of the electricity I receive from our co-op is generated from a coal-fired plant which utilizes clean coal technology, and I favor cost-effective proposals to lessen greenhouse gas emissions. On the other hand, I strongly oppose -- and urge your opposition -- to any bill that would unnecessarily increase costs significantly, and which would include unrealistic timelines to reduce greenhouse gas emissions since the technology to achieve these carbon reductions is not yet available.

It makes sense that climate change legislation should focus on developing and using new technologies, and give appropriate incentives to co-ops and other utilities. In addition, I think legislation should cover the entire economy and not simply electric generation, and also address emissions from other nations. And, it is critical that any proposal also consider the economic costs of the plan and not cause significant negative impacts -- I have heard that some of the pending climate change legislation proposals would have exorbitant price tags. Cost is of particular concern to me as a member-owner of a not-for-profit rural electric cooperative, as any increased costs to our co-op flow directly to my neighbors and me in the form of higher electric rates.

Thank you in advance for your consideration on this important issue. I urge you to only support legislation that addresses the above concerns and which will protect our electric co-op from having to dramatically raise rates.

Sincerely,

Balance Sheet

As of Oct. 31, 2007

ASSETS (What We Own):

Total Utility Plant.....	20,224,871
Less: Accumulated Depreciation.....	7,894,391
Net Utility Plant.....	12,330,480
Cash & Temporary Investments.....	0
Investments in Associated Organizations	1,032,472
Accounts Receivable	175,009
Materials & Supplies	1,042,539
Prepayments & Other Deferred Expenses.....	906,987
Total Assets.....	15,487,487

MEMBERS' EQUITY & LIABILITIES

(What We Owe):

Members' Capital Credits	7,235,260
Other Equities	230,382
Long-Term Debt.....	7,330,605
Consumer Deposits	120,475
Other Liabilities & Deferred Income	570,765
Total Members' Equity & Liabilities.....	15,487,487

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the Ten Months Ended October 31, 2007

INCOME:

Sale of Electricity & Other Services	10,018,759
Other Income	468,483
Total Income	10,487,242

EXPENSES:

Cost of Electric Power	7,090,628
Operations & Maintenance Expenses	790,344
General & Administrative Expenses	928,256
System Depreciation	482,062
Interest Expense.....	399,085
Total Expenses.....	9,690,375

NET MARGINS796,867

The Trustees and Employees of Clinton County Electric wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.



Ronald Becker



Cary Dickinson



Tim Hanke



Kevin Kampwerth



Randy Renth



Vernon Mohesky



Richard Timmerman



Joseph Voss



John White



Gary Albers



Harry Buller



Allan Deiters



Brandon Diekemper



Mike Faust



Douglas Vonder Haar



Myron Johnson



Bob Kroeger



Ralph Kuhl



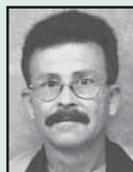
Ahren Langhauser



Sue Laux



Cathy Markus



Dale Nordike



Mike Rainey



Mary Jane Richter



Jim Riddle



Brian Taylor

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Published by Clinton County Electric Cooperative

The Clinton County Connection
 Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
 475 North Main Street, P.O. Box 40
 Breese, Illinois 62230 (618)526-7282
 Office open Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The CLINTON COUNTY CONNECTION (USPS 008-212) is published bi-monthly for \$2 per year by Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., 475 North Main Street P.O. Box 40, Breese, IL 62230. Periodical rates postage paid at Breese, IL and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CLINTON COUNTY CONNECTION, 475 North Main Street P.O. Box 40, Breese, IL 62230.

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