



Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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Verify your membership information

Clinton County Electric Cooperative is about to embark upon the necessary project of verifying all 5,000 of our membership records.

Over time our member's lives change, whether it be marriage, divorce or even death. Generally, informing the electric cooperative of these changes tends to be the last thing on a member's mind. However, these life changing events **MAY** change their membership status.

Throughout the first couple of weeks in August, we will be mailing out a "membership verification" letter to each active membership. An image of the special envelope we have designed to "catch" your attention can be seen in this article.

When this envelope makes it to your mailbox, open and read the letter. **PLEASE DO NOT DISCARD THIS LETTER BEFORE YOU READ IT.**

Action is requested and it is extremely important we hear back from you when you receive your membership verification letter. Even if the information in the letter is correct, give us a call between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. and let us know all is well.

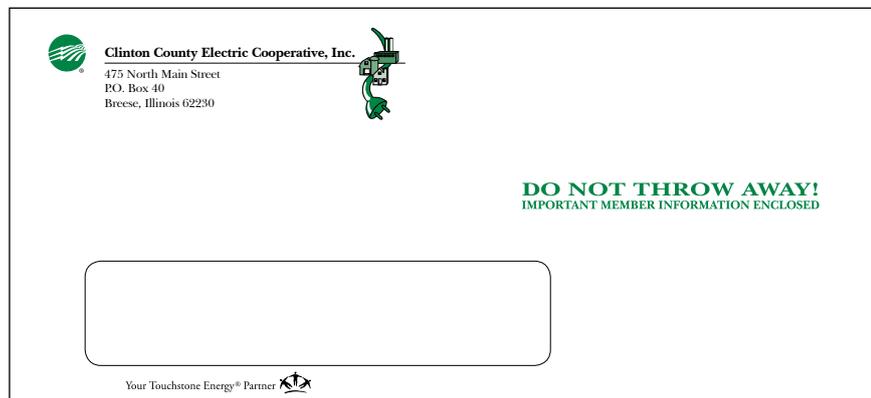
It is crucial your membership contains current, accurate information, because with that membership comes the following benefits:

1. Ability to exercise your right to vote on candidates and issues at your Annual Meeting
2. Ability to exercise your right to vote at a Special Meeting of the membership
3. Ability to receive Capital Credits or Patronage
4. Ability to run for a Trustee's position
5. Ability to inquire about account information

If a name is not on the membership record, that person does not have the benefits attached to being a member. Simply put, that person cannot vote, earn capital credits or even inquire about account activity.

Our goal is to have all of our membership records verified before the 2016 Annual Meeting of the membership.

Please remember, all initiatives we embark upon always have our members' best interest in mind. Providing our members with safe, reliable, reasonably-priced electricity while providing excellent service will continue to be our goal. As always, if you have any comments or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at Johnson@cceci.com.



Mike Johnson

Youth to Washington

At the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Annual Meeting in Chicago in 1957, Senator Lyndon Baines Johnson addressed the crowd stating, "If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents." Soon thereafter, Illinois sent a busload of young people to Washington. By 1964, approximately 400 students from 12 states made the trip to D.C. Word of the program continued to spread and today, over 1,660 students and their chaperones participate in the Youth Tour each year.

The program is stronger than ever and Clinton County Electric Cooperative Inc. (CCECI) was proudly represented by three outstanding youth on this year's "Youth to Washington" Tour held from June 12-19. Emily Detmer and Evan Schuette were chosen by a panel of judges, at "Youth Day" in Springfield, to attend this year's "Youth to Washington" tour. Lucas Hanke went as a "Willie Student" meaning he attended Washington D.C. at his own expense. Emily, Evan, and Lucas all children of CCECI members, loaded a bus in Mt. Vernon early Friday morning, June 12, and started what was an eye-opening experience by seeing numerous D.C. area attractions and monuments, learning more about electric cooperatives, and creating countless friendships which will last for many years to come.

Over 1,660 youth from all over the United States gathered at the Hyatt Regency Hotel one morning for the Youth Day assembly to



John Shimkus visited with the students representing Clinton County Electric during their recent visit to our nation's capital. Pictured from left to right are Evan Schuette, Lucas Hanke, Emily Detmer and Congressman Shimkus.



The students from Illinois were privileged to meet with Congressman Mike Bost while visiting our nation's capital in June.

hear phenomenal speakers. The students were privileged to hear keynote speaker Mike Schlappi, who delivered an inspiring message from his wheelchair. Mr. Schlappi was accidentally shot at age 14 and doctors told him he would never walk again. Prior to his accident, he was dreaming

of a career as a top American athlete. In his message he stated, "Just because you can't stand up, doesn't mean you can't stand out." His message was inspiring for the young and old.



Emily Detmer, fourth from the left, was chosen to participate in a presentation at the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia on the "Youth to Washington" tour.



The week in Washington D.C. was action-packed with over 65 students representing Cooperatives from the entire state of Illinois. They all traveled together to visit such sites as the Capitol Building, Gettysburg, Arlington National Cemetery, the Washington National Cathedral, several Smithsonian Museums, the United States Holocaust Museum, the World War II Memorial, memorial to Presidents Lincoln, Jefferson, Washington, and Roosevelt, the Newseum and numerous other historical locations. A highlight of the trip was the opportunity to meet our United States Representatives

and Senators. Emily, Evan and Lucas were able to personally meet with U.S. Congressman John Shimkus along with other Congressmen and Senators.

The Youth Program allows today's students to experience government first-hand by visiting Capitol Hill and seeing the historical sites in Washington D.C. Emily, Evan and Lucas along with all of the students from Illinois, who attended, did not want this awesome week to end. They made long-lasting friendships and will remember their week of learning more about our wonderful nation for a very long time.

Each year Clinton County Electric sponsors two students to attend this week-long all expense paid educational trip. Children of Board of Trustee members and employees are eligible to attend at their own expense. The program is kicked off each year in March with "Youth Day" in Springfield and followed by the trip to Washington D.C. in June. Information about next year's trip will be available in the December issue of our newsletter or can be found on our website at www.cceci.com under the Youth Programs tab.

Detmer served on Board of the Chip and Pop Co-op



Emily Detmer, daughter of Jeff and Chris Detmer of Breese, was selected as one of the students to represent Clinton County Electric Cooperative on the Youth to Washington tour held June 12-19.

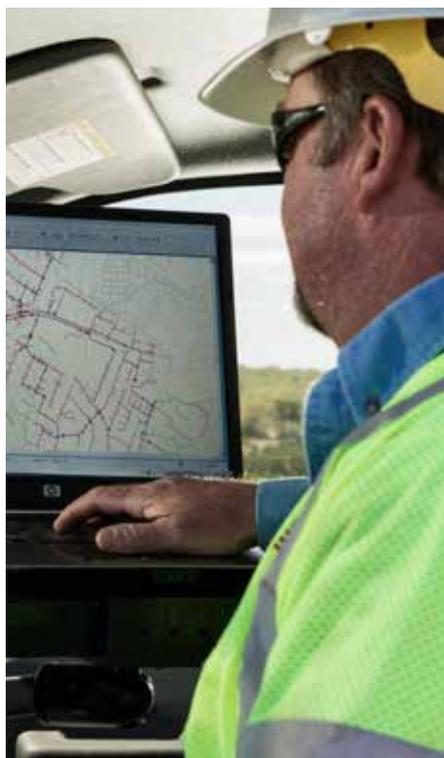
During the trip to Washington, Emily sought election to the Board of Directors for the Chip and Pop Co-op. After interviewing with members of the nominating committee, she was selected as one of ten board members.

The Chip and Pop Co-op works similarly to that of an actual cooperative. It provides snacks and drinks to the students/members throughout the week. As a member of the board, Emily interviewed and ultimately hired the managers, the ones who actually handled and distributed the snacks and drinks. The board met and decided how much to charge for the items sold. 2015 proved to be a good year for the

Chip and Pop Co-op as they were able to raise the highest amount to date, which was \$450.00. At the end of the week, Emily and the rest of the Board held a final meeting to decide how to distribute the margins/profits made by their cooperative.

It was decided that just as Clinton County Electric pays back their margins in the form of capital credits, the Chip and Pop Co-op decided to give each student/member back their portion of the margins.

At the end of the week, Emily thought her time on the Board really helped open her eyes to how a cooperative actually works and was extremely grateful for the learning experience.



WE ARE ALL UP TO THE CHALLENGE. When we work together, using energy wisely and saving money go hand in hand. Learn more about the power of your electric co-op membership at TogetherWeSave.com



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In observance of Labor Day, the office will be **CLOSED** on Monday, September 7th