



Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Published by Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. • cceci@cceci.com • www.cceci.com

Minutes from the 77th Annual Meeting of Members

Members in attendance at Clinton County Electric Cooperative's 77th Annual Meeting, held Thursday, March 19, at Central Community High School in Breese, re-elected Vernon Mohesky of District 2 by acclamation. The members in attendance were also able to cast their ballots as CCECI had 2 contested elections. The first election had Robert Gerstenecker running against Travis Simpson. Through the voting process Robert Gerstenecker was elected to the Board of Trustees as the new representative for District 1. Gerstenecker replaces John White who retired after more than 20 years of dedicated service to the membership. The second race had incumbent Ron Becker verses newcomer Jim Endres. In that race, the members voted to re-elect Ron Becker to District 3. Members learned of the successes of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative's (SIPC) generating stations, continued improvements of Prairie State Generating Campus' units, the cooperative's financial condition, improvements made for electric system reliability and electric rates.

Upon motion by Dennis Horstmann, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the minutes from last year's annual meeting were approved. Upon motion by Jim Tebbe, seconded and a vote taken thereon, Vernon Mohesky was elected by Acclamation.

Before Chairman Cary Dickinson started his speech, Illinois State Senator Kyle McCarter who was in attendance,

spoke briefly to the crowd. Chairman Dickinson then talked about SIPC's flawless performance in 2014 and in the early months of 2015. He went on to talk about SIPC hitting new system peaks in January of 2015 and how the Marion units are operating at a best in class standard. Dickinson then mentioned the improvements made at PSGC saying "For the year 2014, Prairie State Unit 1 was available 64.67% of the time. While those are not as strong as the exceptional performance we've experienced at Marion, there has been significant improvement over the past couple of years." He concluded his portion of the evening by reminding everyone of key management changes at PSGC with a new CEO and COO.

According to Treasurer Ronald Becker, 2014 brought in revenue of almost \$16,500,000, with expenses of almost \$15,900,000 and an operating margin of slightly more than \$600,000. Clinton County Electric experienced a slightly higher margin than expected due to an Ameren overcharge refunded to the cooperative's power supplier Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), who passed \$238,000 of that refund along to Clinton County Electric Cooperative.

Clean air and water regulations continue to be a major concern for SIPC and its member cooperatives. The generation and transmission cooperative is subject to increasing and stricter

state and federal EPA regulations. In 2014, EPA rules added 18 percent to the cost of generating electricity, or \$103,000 for every day of the year. Clinton County Electric's share of it was \$2,060,000. Becker explained, "The cost for environmental compliance at our power supplier is certain to increase for 2015 and appears will increase again in 2016. All methods to minimize these costs have been, are being, and will be employed."

Members who attended this year's meeting will receive a \$10.00 credit on their April bill. Capital credit checks were also issued to those who were members of the cooperative in 1990. Becker said, "Returning capital credit is not required by law, but certainly reflects the cooperative way of doing business. And remember these capital credit payments differentiate us from an investor-owned utility where a person must purchase shares of stock to be eligible for dividends."

Continued on 16b ►



Mike Johnson

Annual Meeting continued from 16a

The cooperative has spent the past six years conducting an aggressive vegetation management program and a pole inspection and treatment program. During the first four years of the pole inspection and treatment program, the cooperative replaced over 1,600 poles and brought right-of-way clearing and tree trimming to an optimum level. President Johnson said, "Our goal is to provide you, the member, with reliable power. No one likes it when their power goes off. Our goal at Clinton County Electric is to have an average of less than one member hour of outages per year. By industry standards, that is a pretty lofty goal. However, in 2014 we were able to accomplish that for the first time and hope to continue doing so in the future."

In 2014, Clinton County Electric implemented an outage management system. The first phase of the system now enables members to visit the cooperative's website and see outage locations and the geographic extent of an outage on a map. In 2016, a second phase of the system will provide enhanced communication via text messaging between the cooperative and members providing immediate information about planned or unplanned outages and outage restoration.

President/COO Mike Johnson provided an update on the rate changes implemented by the cooperative during the past five years. While each member's facility charge has increased by \$23.00 since 2009, the energy charge has decreased \$10.19 for the average member. The facility charge is a basic customer charge that partially recovers the fixed cost of poles, wires, transformers and other distribution grid facilities. Johnson said, "What we have done over the past five years or so, is transfer the recovery of dollars from energy revenue to facility charge revenue."

Upon motion by Jim Endres, seconded and a vote taken thereon, all the reports given by the officers and the president were approved.

President Johnson gave an update on the employees of Clinton County Electric. Dale Nordike, will be retiring this year in July with over thirty years of dedicated service. Ralph Kuhl has completed 15 years of dedicated service and Ahren Langhauser 10 years of dedicated service. Mary Jane Richter retired after 45 years of dedicated service and in anticipation of Mary Jane's retirement, Katy Singler was hired as a Customer Service Representative in October of 2014. With the expected retirement of 3 long term operations

employees in the near future, the cooperative hired Jason Deering in February of 2015.

The meeting drew to a close with President Johnson giving an update on the Trustees. John White retired from the Board of Trustees with over 20 years of dedicated service. Joe Voss was recognized for completing an amazing 30 years of dedicated service and Tim Hanke for 15 years of dedicated service.

There being no further business to come before the 77th Annual Meeting of Members of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. upon motion by Jim Tebbe, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Dickinson.

Following adjournment, four cash prizes were awarded: Allen Pichon, \$100; Leo Frerker, \$50; Ralph Holtmann, \$50; Georgieann Gebke, \$50.

Timothy Hanke, Secretary

APPROVED:

Vernon Mohesky, Chairman



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 vot-

ing 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: Mike Johnson, President, Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., 475 N. Main Street, Breese, IL 62230, (618) 526-7282.



2016 Youth Day and Youth Tour

Clinton County Electric will again sponsor up to 12 area sophomores or juniors to attend Youth Day in Springfield to be held on April 13, 2016, sponsored by the cooperative and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Two will be selected to go to Washington, D.C. from June 10-17, 2016 for an all-expense paid tour. See our January 2016 issue for more details.

2016 Clinton County Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting
Thursday, March 17, 2016 – Be sure to mark your calendar!
It is never too early to plan for your upcoming annual meeting



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



Stephen Kalmer



Kevin Kampwerth



Randy Renth



Vernon Mohesky



Joseph Voss



Robert Gerstenecker



Gary Albers



Craig Benhoff



Harry Buller



Jason Deering



Ron Deien



Allan Deiters



Mike Faust



Jacob Haselhorst



Justin Hubert



Mike Johnson



Brenda Knolhoff



Mike Korte



Bob Kroeger



Ralph Kuhl



Ahren Langhauser



Katy Singler



Brian Taylor



Carrie Trame



Doug Vonder Haar