



Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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Patronage returned to the membership

This month's *Illinois Country Living* magazine articles found on pages 16A-16D detail two different means by which the cooperative returns capital back to the membership.

With our December, 2015 billing cycle, the Board of Trustees decided to return \$200,000 to current accounts in the form of a bill credit. The line item on your December bill was labeled "2015 Patronage Refund". As Chairman Mohesky stated in his press release found in the local newspapers, "Our operating margins are over budget for the year, and we felt it best to return those dollars to the membership this year instead of retaining them for future patronage retirements."

The Board of Trustees also approved a retirement of \$200,000 of deferred patronage dividends (capital credits) to those members who were members of Clinton County Electric Cooperative in 1990 or 1991. Those checks will be mailed out in early March, whereas in the past Clinton County Electric distributed those checks at the Annual Meeting.

Distributing capital back to the membership is one the main differences between a Cooperative and an Investor Owned Utility. When you are served by a cooperative, you are by definition an



owner of that cooperative; and with ownership comes benefits such as receiving capital credits.

Management and the Board of Trustees just completed the 2016 budget process and at this point the Cooperative DOES NOT EXPECT ANY CHANGES IN RATES FOR THE BALANCE OF 2016. Please note, this is not a guarantee, Mother Nature could throw us a curveball with a significant storm. In the months to come, I will discuss with you the results of the Cost of Service/Rate Design Study performed last year. I was hoping to have information out to the membership this month, but the document we are reviewing is over 140 pages long and is extremely complex. Once the board reaches a decision, I will inform and educate the membership on the direction

the cooperative is heading in relation to future rate designs.

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

Applications are still being accepted for 2016 Youth Day and Youth Tour

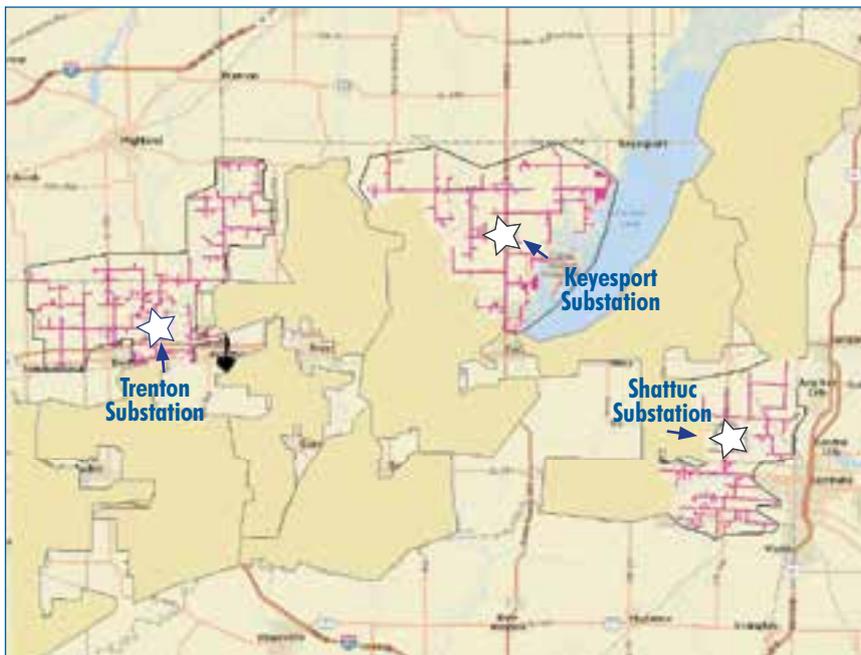
There is still time left for high school sophomores and juniors to apply to attend Youth Day in Springfield to be held on April 13, 2016 sponsored by the cooperative and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Please visit our website, www.cceci.com for an application and more information about Youth Day. Deadline to apply is Friday, March 4, 2016.

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



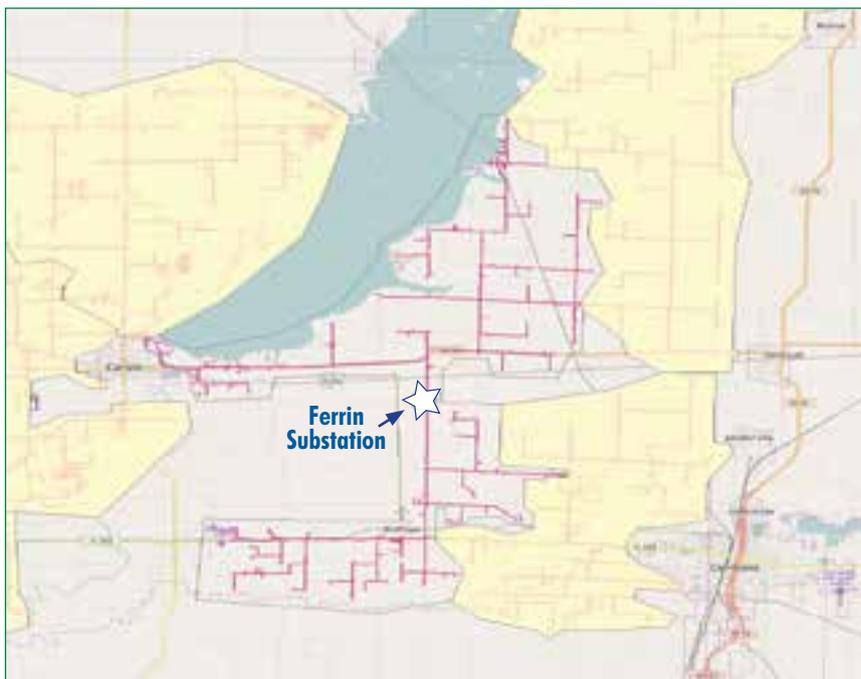
Shattuc, Trenton, Keyesport, and Ferrin Substations

In 2016, we have again contracted with Rensing Tree Service to continue with our 4-year cut program. This year, we will be cutting trees in areas served by our Shattuc, Trenton and Keyesport substations. Since weather conditions play a big part in where and when they can cut, you can expect to see Rensing Tree Service crews throughout most of the year. Rensing Tree Service has worked with Clinton County Electric for many years and we believe they are a valuable partner to ensure reliable service to the membership.



Trees will be cut in the area served by the Trenton, Keyesport and Shattuc Subs

Also in 2016, Clinton County Electric has contracted with Osmose Utilities Service to inspect and possibly treat all electric utility poles served out of the Ferrin Substation. Osmose will probably start their work in late spring and should be done sometime during the summer of 2016. Osmose will be using both pickup trucks and 4-wheelers to move from pole to pole, inspecting and treating them. For a more detailed map of the areas affected by the 4-year cut or pole treating programs, please visit our website www.cceci.com. Please do not hesitate to call the office at 618-526-7282 between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. if you have any questions or concerns.



Poles will be treated in the area served by the Ferrin Sub

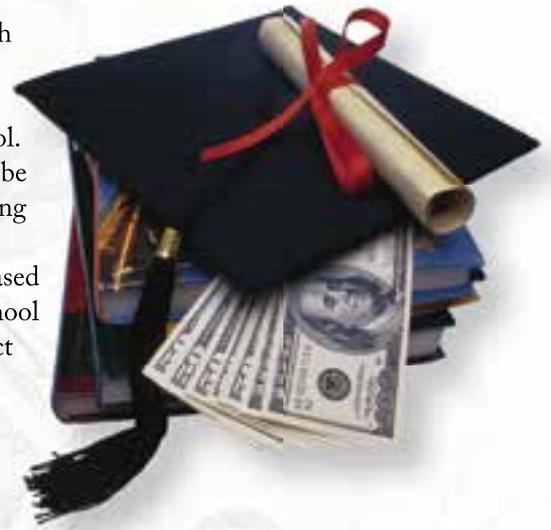
Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. Annual Scholarship Program

For many, many years Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. has awarded scholarships to students of cooperative member families. We are proud to announce that this spring we will again carry on the tradition by proudly sponsoring fourteen \$500 scholarships, totaling \$7,000 to benefit students from our service territory.

Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded to two seniors at each of these six area high schools: Carlyle High School, Central High School,

Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School, Mater Dei Catholic High School, Mascoutah High School and Wesclin High School. Two \$500 scholarships will also be awarded to two students attending Kaskaskia College.

Scholarships are awarded based upon criteria set forth by the school they are attending. Please contact the guidance department at the schools mentioned above for an application and more details.



Thanks for your patronage!

CCECI retires \$200,000 to members

At the December, 2015 Regular Board Meeting, the Cooperative's Board of Trustees approved retirement of deferred patronage dividends (also known as capital credits) totaling \$200,000 which was earned by the membership during the years of 1990 & 1991. Clinton County Electric retires deferred patronage dividends to the most tenured members. This is known as the "first in first out" (FIFO) method. Many cooperatives around the nation use a similar method.

One of the benefits of membership in a cooperative is that you, as both a customer and member, own a portion of the equity of the business. That ownership has value, not only in reliable service and affordable rates, but also in patronage dividend earnings. Clinton County Electric Cooperative recognizes that returning capital credits is one of the most powerful ways for members to recognize the "cooperative difference".



As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, all margins are eventually returned to the members based on the percentage each paid throughout the year. CCECI allocates these operating margins to each individual member as patronage dividends and keeps track of how

much each member is owed. The funds are invested into new plant and equipment, helping to keep our rates low. Each year, based on the financial health of the Cooperative, the Board may retire a portion of the allocated dividends and return it to the members in cash.

Please note, in the past CCECI has distributed capital credit checks at our Annual Meeting. However, starting this year, checks will be mailed out in early March and should arrive shortly before Clinton County Electric Cooperative's 2016 Annual Meeting on March 17, 2016. If your retired patronage dividends are under \$10 they will be held until the accumulated amount is over \$10.

The checks will be mailed to the address on file. Therefore, be sure to notify the Cooperative of address changes after you move out of our service area ensuring future patronage checks will be delivered to you.