



Clinton County Connection

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

President Johnson's Final Letter

By the time the membership is reading this article I will have already ended my employment at Clinton County Electric Cooperative. I sincerely want to thank the Board of Trustees for giving me the opportunity to serve the membership of Clinton County Electric as their President/COO over the past seven years.

I have been asked what my greatest accomplishment was while at Clinton County Electric and I would have to say the ability to coordinate and educate a teamwork philosophy among an engaged board and extremely dedicated employees. Together, our team has accomplished many successes with the most pride in experiencing no lost time accidents during my tenure. This is followed closely by the improvements in reliability, launching of customer service enhancements and aligning rates with our premise of being "fair and reasonable."

I think every General Manager of an electric distribution cooperative wants to believe, upon their departure, they have left the Cooperative in a better state than when they arrived. I undoubtedly believe that Clinton County Electric Cooperative is in a far better state today than it was seven years ago.

At this time, I don't know the steps the Board of Trustees will take in finding a replacement, but I am sure they will make the best decision possible for the membership of Clinton County Electric Cooperative.

Due to my departure, and the impending retirement of Operations Manager Harry Buller, the following promotions/reassignments have recently taken place.

Robert (Bob) Kroeger has been promoted to Manager of Engineering and Operations. Bob will be responsible for the overall supervision of the engineering and operations department, as well as supervising Work Plan construction projects and maintaining and implementing new/old reliability programs.

Brian Taylor has been promoted to Operations Superintendent from Underground Foreman. Brian will be responsible for the day-to-day activities of Clinton County Electric Cooperative's line personnel. Brian will report directly to Bob.

Ahren Langhauser has been promoted to Technical Services Supervisor. Ahren will be responsible for maintaining/purchasing all the technology for the Cooperative. Ahren will also

supervise the Mechanic Shop and Field Services while still performing his day-to-day staking of lines duties. Ahren will report directly to Bob as well.

Mike Faust has been promoted to the Underground Crew Foreman. Mike will be responsible for the day-to-day activities and safety of the underground crew.

And, finally, Harry Buller will be retiring from the Cooperative in early 2017. He will have spent over 43 years of his life serving the membership of Clinton County Electric in various positions. I want to wish Harry a long and enjoyable retirement. However, I am not sure Harry's wife, Cathie, is looking as forward to it as Harry.

In the words of Bob Hope, "thanks for the memories!"



Mike Johnson
*President/CEO of Clinton
County Electric Cooperative*

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. The word of the program continued to spread and today over 1,660 students and their chaperones participate in the Youth Tour every year.

The program is stronger than ever and Clinton County Electric Cooperative Inc. (CCECI) was proudly represented by two outstanding youth on this year's "Youth to Washington" tour held from June 10-17. Trever Johnson and Nick Mensing were chosen by a panel of judges, at "Youth Day" in Springfield, to attend this year's "Youth to Washington" tour. Trever and Nick, both children of CCECI members, loaded a bus in Mt. Vernon early Friday morning, June 10, 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 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

U.S. Representative 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 Nick Mensing, Trever Johnson, and Congressman Shimkus. ▼



The Gettysburg Cemetery was just one of the many stops on the "Youth to Washington" tour attended by Nick Mensing (left) and Trever Johnson (right). ▼





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 young and old.

The week in Washington D.C. was action-packed with over 64 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. Trever and Nick were able to personally meet with Congressman John Shimkus and U.S. Senator Dick Durbin along with other representatives 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. Trever and Nick, along with all of the students from Illinois, did not want this amazing 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.

Introducing John Schroeder

Clinton County Electric is proud to introduce our newest employee, John Schroeder. John is originally from Bartelso, but had been working at Alliant Energy in Iowa for the past couple of years. He started with the CCECI on June 1, 2016 as an Apprentice Lineman. John is happy to be back home in Clinton County and close to his family and friends. We are excited to have John as a part of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative Team.



A graphic for Labor Day featuring several stylized American flags in various colors (red, white, blue, green) arranged in a cluster. Below the flags, the words 'LABOR DAY' are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font on a dark blue rectangular background. Underneath that, the text 'In observance of Labor Day, the office will be CLOSED on Monday, September 5, 2016' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

Farewell President Johnson

After seven years of dedicated service to the members of Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCECI), President Mike Johnson's last day with our cooperative was July 31, 2016. Mike came to Clinton County Electric Cooperative seven years ago from Poudre Valley REA in Ft. Collins, Colorado and has made great strides ever since. He was always very transparent with not only the board and employees, but also with the membership. Throughout his tenure, the CCECI employees experienced no lost time accidents. The 4-year cut program, Osmose pole testing, and additional payment avenues are just a few of the programs President Johnson implemented during his seven years to aid in accomplishing his goal of providing our members with safe, reliable, reasonably priced electricity while providing excellent service. We appreciate all of Mike's efforts and wish him the best of luck in his new endeavors.



Good Luck