



Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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Clinton County Electric prepares to “unbundle” your monthly electric bill

Sometime during the early fall of this year, Clinton County Electric Cooperative will begin to unbundle rates. PLEASE NOTE: YOUR BILL AMOUNT WILL NOT CHANGE DUE TO THIS UNBUNDLING. We will simply be renaming and splitting some of the current charges into more than one line item on your bill in order to give you a clearer picture of what you are paying for.

Currently our fixed charge recovery mechanism is called “Facility Charge” and in our opinion that verbiage is outdated. Since this charge represents the monthly amount needed from each account to recover the costs to design, build and most importantly maintain a safe reliable electric distribution system, that charge will be changed to “System Delivery Charge.” We believe this name more accurately describes the purpose of that charge. After a certain period of time, all of our margins needed to ensure a financially stable cooperative for many years to come will be recovered through the “System Delivery Charge.”

We currently bill all of your energy under one billing component

called, surprising enough, “Energy Charge.” As a part of the unbundling process, we will be separating that component into two line items. The first one will be called, “Power Supplier Energy Charge” and represents the cost billed to Clinton County Electric Cooperative from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) for the commodity we receive, energy. Our long term goal would be to earn no margins on this charge. It is simply a pass through from our power supplier to you, the member/owner.

The other energy related charge will be entitled “Capacity Energy Charge.” This charge is designed to recover the “bricks and mortar” costs at SIPC. Once again, our long term goal would be to not earn any margins on this charge as it too is simply a pass through from our power supplier.

Ultimately our long term goal is to not earn any margins from the sale of energy. We believe that is too volatile for the membership. If the winter is really cold and the summer is really hot, the membership pays too much to the cooperative. If the winters are too warm and the summers are too cool, then the

membership pays too little to the cooperative.

I want to emphasize again **YOUR BILL AMOUNT WILL NOT CHANGE** when we implement the unbundling process later this year. Your bill will look different, but will total the same amount as under the current billing components.

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 Day in Springfield



Secretary of State Jesse White addressed the Youth Day students from the top of his desk.

The 2016 Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day sponsored by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives was held on April 13, 2016 in Springfield.

Claire Eggerman, Nicholas Mensing, Trevor Johnson, Ryan Huelsmann and Calvin Kalmer, all children of Clinton County Electric Cooperative members, joined more than 200 high school students, from around the state for the day's activities. They had the opportunity to tour the Capitol Building, Old State Capitol Building and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. While at



Representative Charlie Meier met with students representing CCECI during their visit to Springfield on April 13, 2016. Pictured left to right are CCECI Chairman of the Board Vernon Mohesky, Claire Eggerman, Calvin Kalmer, Ryan Huelsmann, Representative Charlie Meier, Nick Mensing, Trevor Johnson, and CCECI Customer Service Representative Carrie Trame.

the Capitol Building, the students were privileged to meet with State Representative Charlie Meier. Various speakers throughout the day included Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs and Secretary of State Jesse White.

Two of the students were chosen by a panel of judges to participate in the “Youth to Washington” tour. This is an all expense paid, week-long trip to Washington D.C. taking place this month. The 2016 winners of the Washington D.C. trip from Clinton County Electric were Nicholas Mensing, son of Robert and Marla Mensing of Breese, and Trever Johnson, son of Kenneth and Lisa Johnson of Bartelso. Nicholas and Trever will be outstanding representatives for Clinton County Electric as they travel with approximately 80 other students representing cooperatives throughout Illinois.

Children of cooperative members who are sophomores or juniors in high school are eligible to apply for the Youth Day in Springfield, giving them a chance to participate in the annual “Youth to Washington” trip. For more information, visit our website at www.cceci.com or watch for information in our December and January issues of this newsletter.



Students participating in Youth Day heard about the restoration of the Old State Capitol building on the steps before going inside where they heard more about the historic site.



Representatives from Clinton County Electric Cooperative were able to pose for a picture with the Lincoln family during their visit to Springfield. Pictured left to right are Calvin Kalmer, Claire Eggerman, Trever Johnson, the Lincoln Family, Nick Mensing, and Ryan Huelsmann.



The Cooperative Office will be closed Monday, July 4, 2016 in observance of Independence Day and Monday, September 5, 2016 in observance of Labor Day.

Storm safety: when thunderstorms, tornadoes strike

by B. Denise Hawkins



Spring can usher in more than April showers. Now through the summer months, thunderstorms can quickly roll in and tornadoes can touch down, often during the afternoon and evening hours, according to researchers at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Severe Storms Laboratory.

Follow these tips from NOAA and the American Red Cross to keep you and your home safe when tornadoes and severe thunderstorms come your way.

- Prepare for high winds by removing diseased and damaged tree limbs. Trees and power lines are not good friends.
- Listen to local news or National Weather Service broadcasts to stay informed about tornado watches and warnings.
- If in a mobile home, immediately head to a sturdy shelter or vehicle. Mobile homes, especially hallways and bathrooms, are not safe places to take shelter during tornadoes or other severe winds.
- Designate a family meeting place for shelter during and after a storm. If possible, go to your home's basement, a small interior room, or under stairs on the lowest level. Also, have a battery-operated weather radio handy along with emergency supplies.
- Unplug your electronics. Avoid using electrical equipment and corded telephones.
- Remember that there is no safe place outside during a severe storm. If you are caught in a storm while on the road, the American Red Cross urges drivers to turn their headlights on, try to safely exit the roadway, and park. Stay in the vehicle with your seat belt on and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. If thunder and lightning is occurring, avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.
- Move or secure lawn furniture, trash cans, hanging plants or anything else that can be picked up by the wind and become a projectile.
- Stay safe after a storm. Remain indoors at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder. Also, stay away from downed power lines and avoid flooded areas—power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Report them to Clinton County Electric Cooperative at 800-526-7282 immediately.

Sources: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Severe Storms Laboratory, and American Red Cross

B. Denise Hawkins writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.