



# Clinton County Connection

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## Minutes from the 79th Annual Meeting of Members

Members in attendance at Clinton County Electric Cooperative's 79th Annual Meeting, held Thursday, March 16, 2017 at Central Community High School in Breese, re-elected three members of the board of trustees by acclamation and heard the 2016 accomplishments, as well as the financial results of CCECI. Members in attendance also had the opportunity to hear about Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, Prairie State Generating Campus, and future rate strategies at Clinton County Electric Cooperative. Every registered member received a \$20 bill credit and the evening closed with three attendance prizes being awarded.

Upon motion by Jim Tebbe, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the minutes from last year's annual meeting were approved. Upon motion by Nelson Arrowsmith, seconded and a vote taken thereon, Trustees Tim Hanke from District 1, Kevin Kampwerth from District 2, and Randy Renth from District 3 were re-elected by acclamation.

Vernon Mohesky, Chairman of the Board, began his speech by talking about the new President/COO Bob Kroeger. He then spoke about CCECI's accomplishments in 2016. Mohesky went on to explain CCECI has not had a lost time accident since April of 2009, which is almost 314,000

hours worked without an accident. He then focused on reliability and said, "Our goal is to have no more than 1 hour of outage per member, per year. 2014 was the first year we were able to attain that goal. In 2015, we almost made it. For 2016, we missed that goal with 7.46-member outage hours. The main culprit for not making our goal was a large Ameren transmission outage in January and a smaller Ameren transmission outage in May." While on the topic of reliability, Mohesky touched briefly on pole testing and tree trimming.

The next topic on Chairman Mohesky's agenda was the unbundling of the monthly electric bill that took place with the October 2016 billing. He stressed that the amount of each electric bill will not change because of this unbundling. Mohesky stated, "The changes were made to give you a clearer picture of what you are paying for." He also mentioned the approximate \$200,000 of retired patronage that was paid to those who were members in 1991. Chairman Mohesky spoke briefly about the Cost of Service study performed in 2015 and the Rate Change to take place in April of 2017. He closed his portion of the evening talking about Advanced Metering Infrastructure saying, "A definite decision on implementation has not been made at this time. Implementation will

take a couple of years and we will continue to communicate with you the member about it."

Secretary/Treasurer Timothy Hanke said Clinton County Electric continues to return capital credit patronage back to the membership. Recently the cooperative mailed out approximately \$200,000 to those who were members in 1991. Hanke reported the cooperative closed 2016 with total revenue of \$17,279,513, total expenses of \$16,327,780 and operating margins of \$951,733.

Next Paul Furtak, Vice President for Risk & Strategic Planning at Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), which is the source of power for Clinton County Electric, started by providing a brief history of SIPC as well as an overview of the generation resources owned by SIPC. Mr. Furtak stated that the generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative continues to strive for stability and reliability. Mr. Furtak said, "The coal fired units at the Marion plant continue to operate at very high availability levels. This is due in large part to the experienced and dedicated staff at SIPC." When it comes to those employees, safety continues to be of the utmost importance. The primary goal of Safety First has resulted in almost 2.5 years without a lost time accident. Controlling costs

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## Minutes from the 79th Annual Meeting of Members Continued from 18A

has also been a priority at SIPC. Good management of new coal contracts and other resources are helping to reduce costs for SIPC and ultimately its distribution cooperatives and their member/owners.

Environmental regulations continue to be a challenge for coal-burning plants across the country. Mr. Furtak said, "SIPC took a proactive approach many years ago by installing the equipment and technology to meet current and future regulation requirements."

Mr. Furtak reported on the status of Prairie States Generating Campus (PSGS) in Marissa, in which SIPC is part-owner. "In spite of challenges, the operation and performance of the Prairie States continues to improve."

Next, the new President/COO Bob Kroeger came to the podium and told the crowd a little about himself. He then talked about rates and all the discussion surrounding the board's decision to implement a rate change in hopes of being "fair and reasonable" to all members. That rate change means the Rate 1 Facility Charge will increase from \$45 per meter, per month to \$49 per meter, per month while the energy charge will decrease. This change can be seen on the bills received in April 2017.

Then President Kroeger spoke about reliability. He said, "In 2009, we became very focused on improving the service reliability to our members

in three ways: replacing aging and deteriorating copper conductor, pole testing and replacement, and tree trimming." He explained how the Construction Work Plan identifies areas of decreasing reliability within our system and the corrective actions needed to improve the deficiencies.

Safety was the next topic on President Kroeger's agenda. He informed the membership that "the board, management, and employees are dedicated to sending everyone home to their families at the end of the day in the same condition they were when they showed up at work." It is that dedication that has allowed the employees of CCECI to have worked over 314,000 hours without a lost time accident and be a recipient of the 2017 Safety Leadership Award presented at the 2017 Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives Safety, Supervisory, and Technical Conference.

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

Chairman Mohesky then recognized Bob Kroeger as having completed 15 years of dedicated service to the membership. President Kroeger then gave an update concerning the employees of Clinton County Electric. Brian Taylor has completed 20 years of dedicated service, Mike Faust 15

years of dedicated service, and Harry Buller 41 years of dedicated service. With the retirement of Harry and the promotion of Brian, the Cooperative hired John Schroeder as an Apprentice Lineman in June of 2016. Due to the resignation of Mike Johnson and the resulting vacancy created in the engineering department, the Cooperative hired Jared Kampwerth as System Engineer in January 2017.

The meeting drew to a close with President Kroeger giving an update on the trustees. Cary Dickinson was recognized for completing 20 years of dedicated services.

There being no further business to come before the 79th Annual Meeting of Members of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., upon motion by Kenny Walthes, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Mohesky.

Following adjournment, four cash prizes were awarded. The winners were: Ryan & Danielle Peters, \$100; Jim & Elvira Tebbe, \$50; Albert & Barbara Warren, \$50; and Beatrice Tebbe, \$50.

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Timothy D. Hanke, Secretary

APPROVED:

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Vernon Mohesky, Chairman



**The cooperative office will be closed Friday, December 22 & Monday, December 25 in observance of Christmas and Friday, December 29 & Monday, January 1 in observance of New Year's.**

# 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: Bob Kroeger, President, Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., 475 N. Main Street, Breese, IL 62230, (618) 526-7282.**

# 2018 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, TENTATIVELY on April 18, 2018, sponsored by the cooperative and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Two will be selected to go to Washington, D.C. from June 8-15, 2018 for an all-expense paid tour. See our January 2018 issue for more details.

2018 Clinton County Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

Thursday,  
March 15, 2018  
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



Robert Gerstenecker



Tim Hanke



Stephen Kalmer



Kevin Kampwerth



Vernon Mohesky



Randy Renth



Joseph Voss



Craig Benhoff



Jason Deering



Ron Deien



Allan Deiters



Mike Faust



Jacob Haselhorst



Justin Hubert



Jared Kampwerth



Brenda Knolhoff



Mike Korte



Bob Kroeger



Ralph Kuhl



Ahren Langhauser



John Schroeder



Katy Singler



Brian Taylor



Carrie Trame



Doug Vonder Haar



Kyle Wiegmann