



Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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March 2019 Rate Increase

At the regular meeting of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) Board of Trustees held on Nov. 27, 2018, a \$600,000 rate increase was approved effective with March 2019 usage included on the April 2019 bills. Back in January 2018, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), our wholesale power provider, increased wholesale power costs to CCEC

by 5.13 percent. This increase is the driving factor influencing the rate increase for 2019. The last time CCEC implemented a rate increase was five years ago in January 2014.

The details of the rate increase have not yet been determined. CCEC recently conducted a Cost of Service Study. That study breaks down CCEC's cost to provide service to each rate class (i.e. residential, seasonal, commercial, etc.). The results of the Cost of Service Study provide useful information and will be

used to assist CCEC's board and management in allocating cost to each class of members in a way that avoids any one class paying more, or less than their fair share.

Look for more details regarding the 2019 rate increase in the February *Illinois Country Living* magazine. The board and CCEC management are committed to keeping rates fair and reasonable while maintaining reliable service and financial stability. Please do not hesitate to email kroeger@cceci.com with comments or questions.

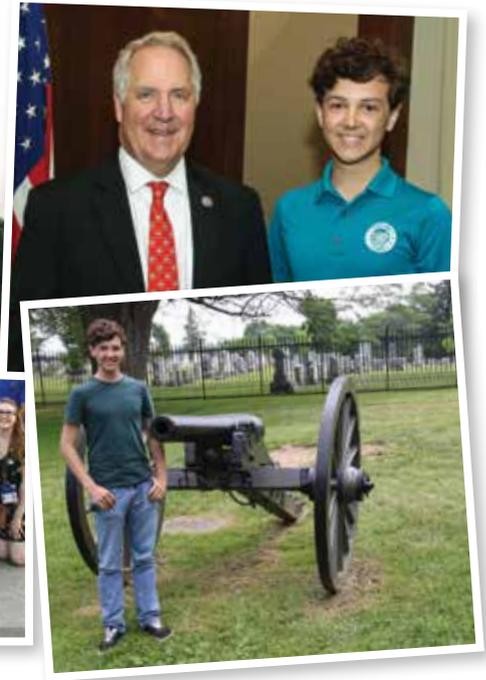
SAVE THE DATE



2019 Clinton County Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Be sure to mark your calendar!
It is never too early to plan for your upcoming annual meeting.



Applications are being accepted for 2019 Youth Day and Youth Tour

Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) will again sponsor up to 12 area sophomores or juniors to attend Youth Day in Springfield to be held on April 3, 2019, sponsored by the cooperative and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Two students will be selected to go to Washington, D.C. from June 14-21, 2019 for an all-expense paid tour.



ELECTRIC & TELEPHONE COOPERATIVES
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WASHINGTON TOUR

Of the 12 students attending Youth Day in Springfield, two will have the opportunity to participate in the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour. The two local winners will join about 70 other Illinois students who are winners of similar contests sponsored by other Illinois electric cooperatives. They will travel in air-conditioned buses, leaving on June 14 and returning June 21. While in Washington, D.C., they will visit such attractions as the White House, U.S. Capitol, Smithsonian Institution,

Arlington National Cemetery, Lincoln Monument and many other national monuments and places of interest.

WHO MAY ENTER?

Youth Day in Springfield and Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. are open to high school sophomores and juniors that are children of CCEC members. Children of CCEC board of trustees or employees may attend at their own expense.

YOUTH TO SPRINGFIELD

Up to 12 students will participate with more than 125 other youths from other Illinois electric cooperatives in Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day in Springfield set for April 3, 2019. The day's activities in Springfield will include touring the State Capitol complex, visiting with legislators and a luncheon. Transportation to Youth Day in Springfield will be provided by the cooperative.

Applications are available at www.cceci.com/youthprograms. Completed applications need to be returned to the cooperative office no later than **March 4, 2019**. Feel free to contact Carrie Trame at Trame@cceci.com with any additional questions.



See you at the annual meeting

By Anne Prince

Most of us lead busy lives. We find ourselves multitasking, constantly checking phones and email to keep up with the demands of modern life. Thanks to technology, we can accomplish many tasks electronically and remotely to be more efficient. With so many pressing obligations, we like to protect our “spare” time. Invitations to attend in-person meetings and gatherings are weighed carefully as we decide whether or not our time and effort to attend is beneficial. The answer to the question, “What’s in it for me?” must be compelling. You may think attending Clinton County Electric Cooperative’s (CCEC) annual meeting would be easy to lump into the “no benefit to me” category. However, I’d ask you to think again.

CCEC exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to its consumer-members (that’s you!). Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of all members and to serve the long-term interests of

our local communities. This is where you can help.

As a member of the community, you have a perspective that is valuable—and we invite you to share it with the cooperative. At the annual meeting, cooperative leaders will discuss priorities and challenges, and discuss the financial health and priorities for the coming years. Annual meeting is also the time to vote for new board members who will represent you—the members of the cooperative. Board members are local consumers, just like you.

CCEC is one of the few local organizations that is uniquely positioned to bring together all members of the community. It’s worth noting that the health of the cooperative and the well-being of the community are closely intertwined.

Perhaps you may feel you have nothing to add to the discussion, so there is no need to attend the annual meeting. However, every energy bill you pay to the cooperative helps

ensure better service and reliability for the whole community. Your dollars are reinvested locally into improvements that impact the reliability and affordability of your energy, and CCEC wants to hear from you to better inform our decisions as we plan for the future.

While CCEC provides convenient electronic options for bill-paying and communication, there are times when there is no substitute for in-person engagement. When members of our community come together for a common purpose, we improve the quality of life for all in our corner of the world.

If you’ve never attended our annual meeting, or if it’s been awhile, please stop by. Our cooperative family looks forward to visiting with you! We’ll have attendance prizes and cash prizes, so mark your calendar for the annual meeting on March 21, 2019 at Central High School in Breese.

Considering Solar? Call us first!

As interest in “green” energy and ways to save money on utility bills continue to grow, some cooperative members may be considering the installation of a solar array.

Since these types of systems have the capability of returning electricity back to the electric grid, there are some major safety considerations to sort through before a system is installed.

Before deciding to buy a solar array, examine the economics to determine if such a system will lower your monthly electricity costs. If you do decide to install a solar array, contact our office as early as possible in the process.

A CCEC representative will provide information on our interconnection process and policies, as well as answer any questions you may have. That way, you and your installer will have the information needed as you progress with your system.

For more information on CCEC policies and requirements, please contact our office Monday through Friday, between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 800-526-7282.



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