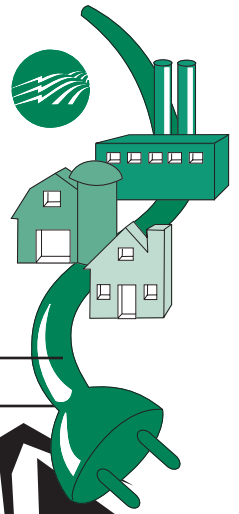


# Clinton County Connection

Published by Clinton County Electric Cooperative

Volume 14 Number 2 • email - [cceci@cceci.com](mailto:cceci@cceci.com) • Web page - [www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com) • April 2006



COMING TO A MAILBOX NEAR YOU  
May, 06  
YOUR NEW ELECTRIC BILL

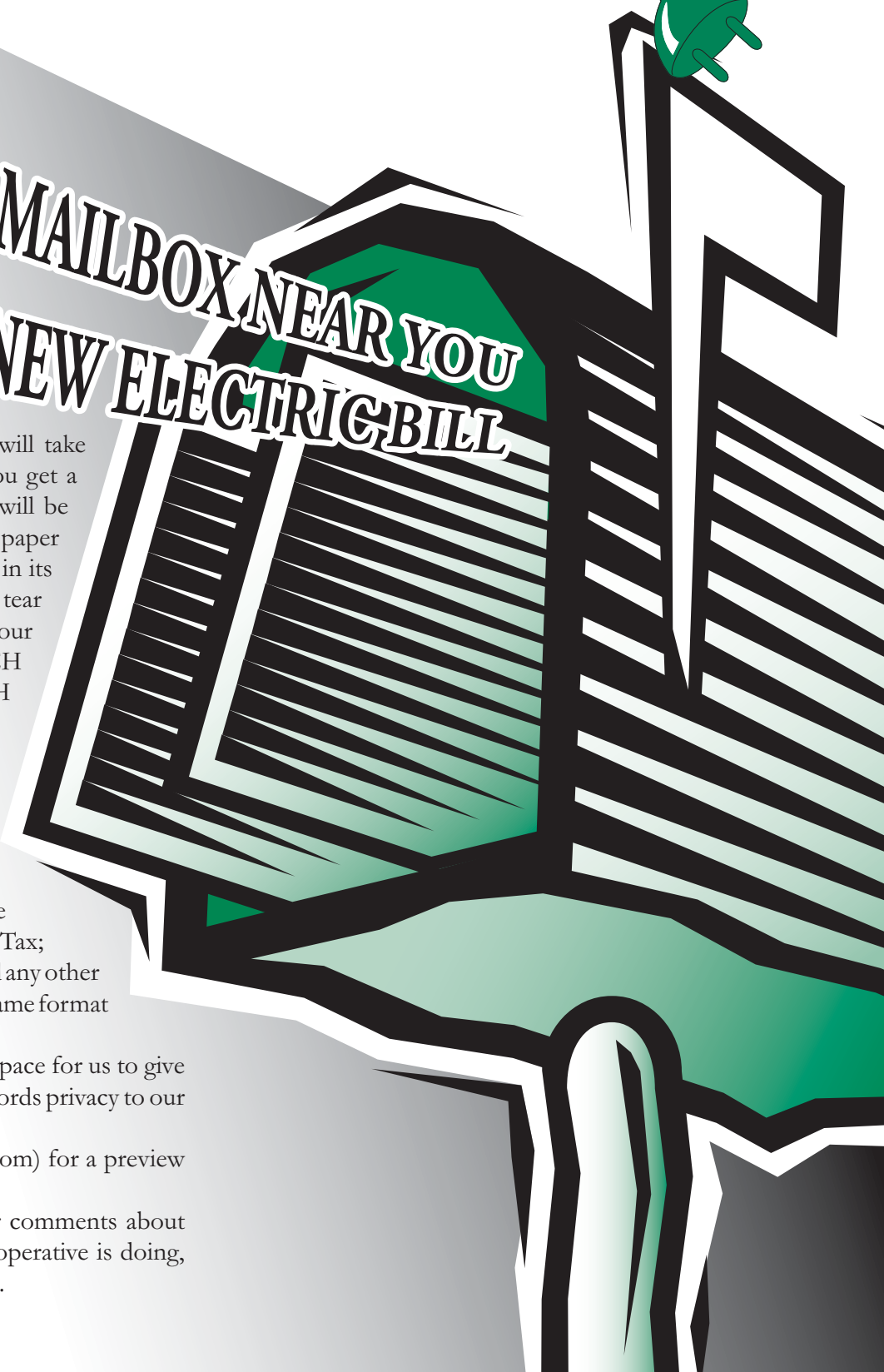
**S**tarting in May, your electric bills will take on a new look. No longer will you get a postcard-type of bill. The new bills will be printed on 7x8 1/2 inch sheets of paper (see page 2) and will be mailed to you in its own sealed envelope. You will need to tear off the top portion and send it with your payment in the return envelope WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED WITH EACH BILL. We will no longer be sending out packets of yellow envelopes. Mail your payment each month in the envelope enclosed along with the top portion of your bill.

The new bills will list separately the kWh usage and the charge for the kWh usage; the Facility Charge; Utility Tax; Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment; and any other charges or credits. It will be exactly the same format as the sample on page 2.

The new bills will also have more space for us to give you additional information and also affords privacy to our members.

Check our Web page ([www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com)) for a preview of the new bill.

If you ever have any questions or comments about the new bills, or anything else the Cooperative is doing, please don't hesitate to call or come in.



# New Bill Coming in May 2006

0033373600



**Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
 475 North Main St. PO Box 40  
 Breese, IL 62230-0040

1 1 SP 0.390  
 DONALD W DEITERS  
 & LINDA M DEITERS  
 15025 ROD AND GUN RD  
 BREESE IL 62230-3641

C-1 P-1 # #  
 # #  
 # #



Account # 22222222

**Net Amount Due** 70.80

Past Due After 01/25/2006

Amount With Penalty 74.34



CLINTON COUNTY ELECTRIC \*  
 COOPERATIVE, INC.  
 PO BOX 40  
 BREESE IL 62230-0040



**RETURN THIS PORTION WITH PAYMENT**

**STATEMENT IS PAYABLE UPON RECEIPT**

Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., 475 North Main St., PO Box 40, Breese IL 62230  
 Phone: (618)526-7282 or (800) 526-7282  
 Office Hours: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday - Friday

Account #:	Reading Dates:	From	To	Days	Used Last Yr	Daily Cost
22222222	12/02/2005	01/02/2006	31	806	2.46	
Service Address	W.P.C.A Factor	Previous Reading	Present Reading	Multiplier	KWH Usage	\$Amount
15025 ROD AND GUN RD	0.0057000	54041	54858	1.00	817	73.53
<b>Activity Since Last Bill</b>						
Balance:	83.93	FACILITIES CHARGE				15.00
Total Payments:	-83.93	UTILITY TAX				2.61
Other Adjustments:	0.00	WHOLESALE POWER COST ADJUSTMENT				4.66
Balance Forward:	0.00	OTHER CHARGE / CREDIT				25.00 CR

Annual meeting will be on March 16, 2006 at 7:30 pm at Central High School in Breese

Meter Number: X-1631	Net Due 70.80	Past Due After: 01/25/2006	Bill with Penalty 74.34	Disconnect Date 02/07/2006
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We are here to serve you. Please call us if you have any questions.

Night Depository, Automatic Funds Transfer and Budget Billing are available for your convenience.

Save the late charges by paying the amount due no later than the due date.

Failure to receive bill does not exempt you from monthly late charges or disconnection.

## From The Engineering & Operations Departments...

### Avoid breaker box dangers

When working on your breaker box, keep these tips in mind:

If you're not a licensed electrician, never try to repair a fuse or breaker box. If you see broken or frayed wires, if certain circuits trip frequently, or if you notice any other problems, call an electrician.

Never replace a blown fuse with a substitute, such as a penny, and always use the correct-sized fuse for replacement. A fuse that is too powerful can cause a fire hazard.

If a fuse or circuit breaker frequently blows, you may have too many appliances, or appliances that may be too powerful, on that circuit. Try unplugging a few items. Then, if the circuit continues to blow, call an electrician – you may have a potentially serious problem.

Always keep water away from the breaker panel.

NEVER work on the electrical system while a fuse or breaker is on.

If you have a power outage, check the breaker box first. If your panel uses circuit breakers, reset them from off to on. If you have fuses, look for the broken metal strip in the top of the blown fuse. Then, replace the fuse with one of the correct amperage.

### Planned Outage Notification Call List

Clinton County Electric does its best to keep your power on 24/seven. But outages do occur occasionally. For most of you, this is an inconvenience, but if you depend on life support equipment, it could be a real problem.

Most of our outages occur because of weather or vehicles, but a few are planned in advance for our crews to do maintenance work or construction work.

The co-op keeps a list of those members who are on life support and these members are first to be considered when power is restored. We also will attempt to call these members in advance when an outage is planned for their area.

If you, or a family member, depend on electrically powered life support equipment, we will need a doctor's certificate verifying this. Then we will put you on our call list. It is the member's responsibility then to keep all contact information updated with CCEC.

We want to stress, however, that Clinton County Electric in no way guarantees uninterrupted power supply. Members must make their own personal arrangements for both unplanned and planned outages. We highly recommend that, if you depend on electricity to power life support equipment, you purchase an electric generator. Also, if your business depends on uninterrupted power supply, computers should have some sort of a battery back-up system.

## From The Billing Department...

### We Might Call You!

Please be sure to keep your phone number up to date at the Cooperative. It is extremely important to have a current primary phone number on file to reach you in case of a power outage, a billing question or to notify you when work must be done on your property.

Please notify us of any change in your phone number(s). Write your phone number on your bill statement next month when you mail us your payment. If it's different from what we have on your account, we will change it. If you prefer, you may call the office to verify your number(s) - (618) 526-7282.

### Make your life (and ours) easier with our Automatic Payment Plan

Five ways automatic payment can help you:

1. It saves time – fewer checks to write.
2. It is convenient and timely – even if you're out of town.

3. It's always on time – no lost or misplaced statements help maintain good credit and avoid late charges.
4. It saves money – no postage needed.
5. It's easy – to sign up, just call us (618) 526-7282. We'll mail you the necessary forms to fill out.

The Automatic Payment Plan is dependable, flexible, convenient, and easy. In short, you authorize regularly scheduled payments to be made from your checking account. Your payments will be automatically taken from your checking account around the 22nd of each month. You will still receive a bill for your records so you know what to deduct from your checking account. The amount taken from your checking account is always the net amount shown on your bill.

To take advantage of this service, contact the co-op office (618) 526-7282.

## Clinton County Electric Holds 68th Annual Meeting of Members

The 68th Annual Meeting of Members of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CCEC) was held on Thursday evening, March 16, at the Central High School gymnasium, just west of Breese.

A large crowd turned out to hear President/COO Jim Riddle discuss current and future electric rates. "CCEC has not seen an overall rate increase in 18 years, and no general rate increase is expected in the coming year," Riddle announced at the meeting. "The current cost of power is being driven by fuel cost, including coal, carbon and natural gas," he continued. Riddle concluded his report by stating, "We are continually striving to find ways to reduce costs and improve service for our members."

Chairman of the Board Joe Voss discussed the three areas of risks faced by the cooperative, which includes keeping both members and linemen safe, outages due to wind and storms and loss of income when members move off the co-op's lines without paying their bill. "The co-op has a number of systems in place to manage these risks," explained Voss. "They include holding regular safety meetings and training for linemen and continuously keeping electric safety public service messages before the members, regular tree trimming and brush spraying to reduce blinks and outages and a deposit policy in place so those who don't pay their bills won't penalize paying members of the co-op."

Treasurer Ron Becker reported that the co-op is in good financial condition with margins for the year at \$700,000. "The co-op's largest expense is its wholesale power cost from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, which totals 70 percent of the co-op's total expenses. Your co-op continues to be run and managed in a conservative and efficient manner," said Becker.

Re-elected to the board of trustees were John White of Carlyle from Dist. #1 and Ron Becker of Trenton from Dist. #3. Vernon Mohesky of Breese was elected from Dist. #2, replacing



*Members of Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CCEC) elected Vernon Mohesky of Breese and re-elected John White of Carlyle and Ronald Becker of Trenton to the Co-op's board of trustees during the organization's annual meeting of members held Thursday, March 16, at Central Community High School in Breese. Mohesky replaces longtime CCEC trustee James Tebbe of Breese. Pictured above are: (l. to r.) John White, Vernon Mohesky, Ron Becker and President/COO of the Cooperative, Jim Riddle.*

longtime CCEC trustee Jim Tebbe, also of Breese.

Service awards were given to: Lineman Brian Taylor and trustees Randy Renth and Cary Dickinson for 10 years of service; trustee Ron Becker for 15 years of service; and trustee Rich Timmermann for 20 years of service.

Every member registered at the meeting received a \$10 bill credit, which will appear on the April bill, and a lighted tri-tap extension cord.



*Members of the Advisory Committee were on hand at the Annual Meeting to sign up new members and to explain what their Committee does.*



*Chairman of the board Joe Voss congratulates lineman Brian Taylor on 10 years of service*



*CCEC employee Mike Faust distributes attendance prizes to members at the annual meeting. Each member attending the 68th Annual Meeting received a \$10 bill credit (which will appear on the April bill) and a lighted tri-tap extension cord.*



# RECIPES



Photos by Catrina McCulley Wagner

*Recipes taken from the April issue of Illinois Country Living*

## Hidden Valley Wraps

- 1 C. Hidden Valley Original Ranch Dressing
- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 4 (10-inch) jumbo flour tortillas, warmed
- 10-oz. turkey breast slices
- 10-oz. Monterey Jack and Cheddar cheese slices
- 2 lg. avocados, peeled and thinly sliced
- 2 med. tomatoes, thinly sliced
- Alfalfa salad sprouts



Blend together dressing and cream cheese. Spread evenly on tortillas. Evenly layer turkey, cheese, avocados, tomatoes and sprouts on tortillas, leaving a 1-inch border around the edges. Fold bottom edge toward the center and firmly roll away from you until completely wrapped. Place seam down and cut in half diagonally. Serve. Makes 4 servings.

## Pretzel Jell-O Salad (above)

- 2 C. crushed pretzels
- 3 tsp. sugar
- 3/4 C. butter
- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese
- 1 C. sugar
- 1 (8-oz.) ctn. Cool Whip
- 1 lg. pkg. strawberry Jell-O
- 2 C. boiling water
- 1 pt. frozen strawberries



Cream 3 tsp. sugar and oleo together. Add to the crushed pretzels. Press in a 9x13-inch pan and bake at 350° for 10 minutes. Cream the cream cheese and 1 C. sugar. Mix in Cool Whip and spread over cooled pretzel crust. Add boiling water to Jell-O and stir. Add strawberries and let partially set in refrigerator before pouring over cream cheese mixture. Refrigerate until set. Serves 12.

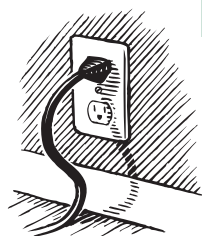
## Living Well In Today's World

You've probably got the flu if the first signs are fever, headache and exhaustion. It's more likely just a cold if your discomfort starts with sneezing and a scratchy throat.

- People with heart disease who exercise according to their doctors' instructions cut their risk of dying from heart disease. Exercise is good for what ails you, even if you have diabetes, high blood pressure, arthritis or heart disease.
- Eighty-five percent of Americans wear seat belts when riding in vans and SUVs, 83 percent in cars and 73 percent in pickup trucks.
- In 2004, each American consumed nearly 25 pounds of candy, down 2 1/2 pounds from 1997.
- People who use cell phones while driving are four times more likely to have a serious crash, according to a study in the British Medical Journal.

- Frozen orange juice contains about 25 percent more Vitamin C than the ready-to-drink juice sold in cartons. The heat used to pasteurize the latter breaks down nutrients.
  - You'll eat 10 percent less if you sit up straight during a meal. Food settles more quickly into the lowest part of the stomach, where receptors send "I'm full" signals to the brain.
  - Exercise and love are a lot alike. They both make your heart healthier. Both release feel-good endorphins. Both may reduce the effects of aging. Both are good for your heart health. Both can make you feel more confident.
  - Thirty-four percent of U.S. women are obese, compared with 3 percent of Japanese women.
- Be wary of so-called "low-carb" foods. Consumer reports found that many packaged low-carb foods are actually higher in calories than regular products.

## Recipe for Electrical Appliance Safety



**PREPARATION TIME:**  
5 minutes.

**INGREDIENTS:**  
Cords, hair dryers, curling irons, plugs, radios, toasters, microwaves, fuses and circuit breakers.

- DIRECTIONS:**
- Check all power cords and plugs for breaks or damaged insulation.
  - Check plugs to be sure they are in good condition.
  - Keep all appliances such as toasters, microwaves, hair

dryers, curling irons and radios away from sinks and water. **Electricity and water do not mix.**

- If a circuit breaker keeps tripping or fuses keep blowing, first check to see if you have too many appliances on the circuit. Inspect cords and outlets. If the problem persists, have appliances inspected by a qualified service personnel or have the wiring checked by a qualified electrician.
- Mix all ingredients together following the directions and cook up a recipe to save lives.

**SERVES:** Everyone.

## And The Results Are In...

In the past several months we've been conducting a survey to determine Annual Meeting interest. It is important to understand that, according to law, and per Cooperative ByLaws, Clinton County Electric MUST hold an annual meeting. Bearing this in mind, we asked our members for their thoughts concerning the annual meeting. When you returned your survey, you were entered into a drawing and were eligible to win one of four \$25 bill credits appearing on your January 2006 electric bill. Well, the results are in and the winners of the bill credits were: Don Deiters, Hazel Edwards, Gerald Manwaring and Dennis Strake.

Here is a breakdown of the survey:

There were 155 surveys returned. Of these 155 members, 58 were between the ages of 61 and 75 (37.4%) and 44 between 46 and 60 years of age (28.3%). Only two members under the age of 30 responded to our survey.

Fifty-three respondents have been co-op members for between 21 and 40 years and 47 have been members for more than 40 years. Another 21 members indicated they have been members six years or fewer.

Of the 155 respondents, 91 (58.7%) said they regularly attend the Annual Meeting. Thirty-five members said bill credits would be an enticement to attend the annual meeting; 24 said prizes; and 15 said a speaker might lure them to attend. Fifty-five stated they would attend no matter what.

Thursday evening is apparently the right night to hold the annual meeting because 94 members said they preferred Thursday evenings, and 22 members said they'd attend no matter what night it was held on.

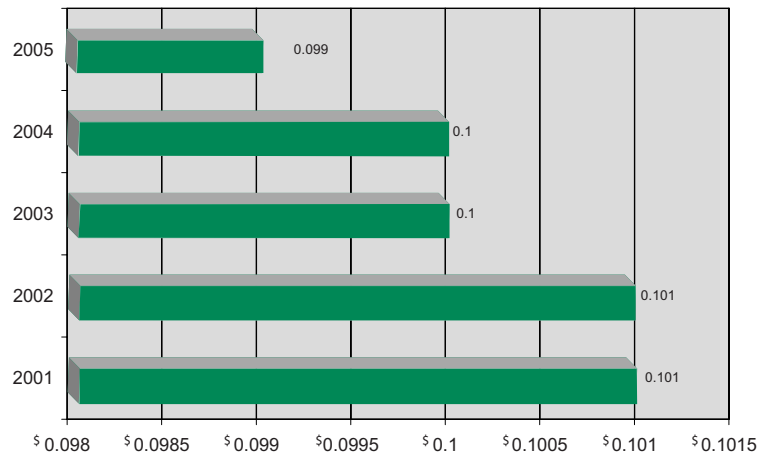
Under subjects to discuss, electric rates, future electric rates, and energy conservation were topmost on members' minds.

CCEC would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the survey. We want to know your thoughts and concerns about the co-op. All surveys were read with care, and all suggestions and comments taken into consideration. Thanks again!

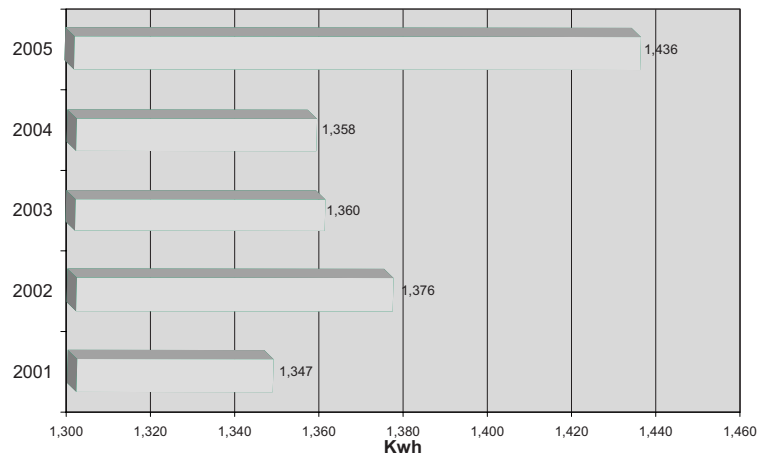
## Facts about your Cooperative

	2005	2004
Miles Of Line	1,029	1,026
Members Connected	5,571	5,496
Member per Mile of Line	5.4	5.4
Kwh Purchased	128,076,677	120,784,618
Kwh Delivered	120,816,201	114,449,805
Percent Loss	5.7%	5.2%

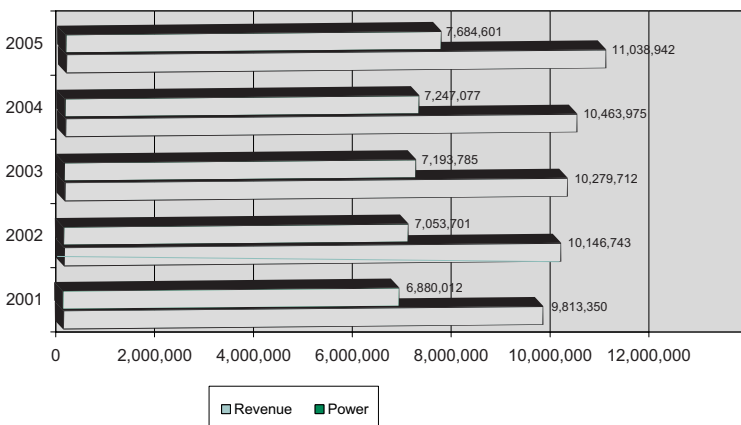
Member's average cost per kwh



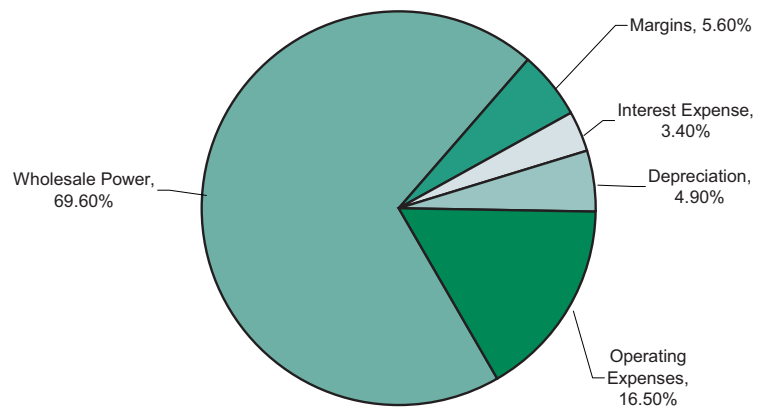
Average kwh per Month - Residential Members



Wholesale Power Costs Compared to Revenue



How the Dollar was Divided - 2005



## Financial Information

### BALANCE SHEET

As of February 28, 2006

#### ASSETS (What We Own):

Total Utility Plant .....	18,600,719
Less: Accumulated Depreciation .....	7,389,726
Net Utility Plant .....	11,210,993
Cash & Temporary Investments.....	-117,968
Investments in Associated Organizations....	602,763
Accounts Receivable.....	226,871
Materials & Supplies.....	342,716
Prepayments & Other Deferred Expenses	1,912,835
<b>Total Assets .....</b>	<b>14,178,210</b>

#### MEMBERS' EQUITY & LIABILITIES (What We Owe):

Members' Capital Credits .....	6,122,141
Other Equities .....	213,886
Long-Term Debt.....	6,649,361
Consumer Deposits .....	102,200
Other Liabilities & Deferred Income .....	1,090,622
<b>Total Members' Equity &amp; Liabilities .....</b>	<b>14,178,210</b>

### STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the Two Months Ended February 28, 2006

#### INCOME:

Sale of Electricity & Other Services.....	1,971,910
Other Income .....	6,775
<b>Total Income .....</b>	<b>1,978,685</b>

#### EXPENSES:

Cost of Electric Power.....	1,426,193
Operations & Maintenance Expenses.....	164,535
General & Administrative Expenses .....	181,540
System Depreciation .....	91,502
Interest Expense .....	74,969
<b>Total Expenses.....</b>	<b>1,938,739</b>

**NET MARGINS .....** 39,946



## D A N G E R S o f D i g g i n g



Don't get shocked by what you find in your backyard - start every planting or building project with a call to J.U.L.I.E. Cable, phone, gas and electric lines can be buried just beneath the surface. When planting that tree or setting that post, you could dig into an earthworm, a cable line, or a 7,200-volt electric line. Call J.U.L.I.E. at (800) 892-0123 at least 48 hours before your work will begin, and keep you and your family safe.

Clinton County Electric Cooperative

618 . 526 . 7282 • Breese, Illinois

[www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com)



*President/COO Jim Riddle takes time out to talk things over with a co-operative member.*



*Members stop to look over the ballot before finding seats at the 68th Annual Meeting of Members held March 16th.*



*Employee Cathy Markus registers members at the Annual Meeting. There were over 400 registered members attending the meeting.*

# Clinton County Connection

Published by Clinton County Electric Cooperative



### Board of Directors

Joseph A. Voss, Chairman.....	Carlyle
Cary Dickinson, Vice Chairman .....	Hoffman
Ronald Becker, Secretary-Treasurer .....	Trenton
John White .....	Carlyle
Vernon Mohesky .....	Breese
Kevin Kampwerth.....	Carlyle
Randy Renth.....	Mascoutah
Tim Hanke.....	Carlyle
Richard Timmermann .....	Germantown

### Staff

James B. Riddle .....	President
Ralph Kuhl.....	Manager of Administrative Services
Bob Kroeger.....	Engineer
Harry Buller.....	Manager of Operations
Susan M. Laux .....	Editor

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