Clinton County
Connection
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner
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Across the manager's desk

On behalf of the board of trustees and the employees of Clinton County Electric, I want to thank all of you who took the time to attend the Area Meetings held the last week in October. Numbers were down a little bit from last year, but those who were there participated in lively question and answer sessions.

By now, all of you should be aware of the rate increase to go into effect with your February 2009 bills (January usage). There has not been a general rate increase at your co-op since 1987, more than two decades ago. While it's never easy to increase rates, it's absolutely necessary to do so at this time to maintain financial integrity, retain loan discounts and meet mortgage requirements.

Providing our members with affordable electricity and excellent service has always been our goal, and will continue to be our goal in the future.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

As always, if you have any comments or questions, please don't hesitate to call or come in. My door is always open.

Trustee Ron Becker addressed the crowd telling them about the need for energy conservation.

Members listen attentively to Manager Jim Riddle explain the necessity of the rate increase scheduled for the February, 2009 bills (January usage).

Trustee Rich Timmermann welcomes members to the Albers Area Meeting held on Monday, Oct. 27.

Clinton County Electric Cooperative

Sample letter to Federal legislators

U.S. House
(depends on co-op member's address as to which one they would write)

The Hon. John Shimkus
Member of Congress
240 Regency Centre
Collinsville, IL 62234

The Hon. Jerry Costello
Member of Congress
144 Lincoln Place Court, Suite 4
Belleville, IL 62221

U.S. Senate

The Hon. Dick Durbin
U.S. Senate
525 South Eighth St.
Springfield, IL 62703

The Hon. Barack Obama
U.S. Senate
607 East Adams St.
Springfield, IL 62703

Dear Senator (or Representative) (last name):

As a member/owner of Clinton County Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Breese, Illinois, I am writing regarding federal climate change legislation. My understanding is that there are at least nine such bills currently pending before the U.S. Congress. Almost all of the electricity I receive from our co-op is generated from a coal-fired plant which utilizes clean coal technology, and I favor cost-effective proposals to lessen greenhouse gas emissions. On the other hand, I strongly oppose – and urge your opposition – to any bill that would unnecessarily increase costs significantly, and which would include unrealistic timelines to reduce greenhouse gas emissions since the technology to achieve these carbon reductions is not yet available.

It makes sense that climate change legislation should focus on developing and using new technologies, and give appropriate incentives to co-ops and other utilities. In addition, I think legislation should cover the entire economy and not simply electric generation, and also address emissions from other nations. And, it is critical that any proposal also consider the economic costs of the plan and not cause significant negative impacts – I have heard that some of the pending climate change legislation proposals would have exorbitant price tags. Cost is of particular concern to me as a member-owner of a not-for-profit rural electric cooperative, as any increased costs to our co-op flow directly to my neighbors and me in the form of higher electric rates.

Thank you in advance for your consideration on this important issue. I urge you to only support legislation that addresses the above concerns and which will protect our electric co-op from having to dramatically raise rates.

Sincerely,

Our Energy, Our Future

A Dialogue With America

Productive dialogue begins by asking tough questions and requiring straight answers. Start by asking your elected officials these questions to get the dialogue headed in the right direction.

- Experts say that our nation's growing electricity needs will soon go well beyond what renewables, conservation and efficiency can provide; What is your plan to make sure we have the electricity we'll need in the future?
- What are you doing to fully fund the research required to make emissions free electric plants an affordable reality?
- Balancing electricity needs and environmental goals will be difficult. How much is all this going to increase my electric bill and what will you do to make it affordable?

Start The Dialogue

NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE (_____) _____

EMAIL _____

I AM A MEMBER OF _____ CO-OP

SIGNATURE _____

America's Electric Cooperatives

For more information visit www.ourenergy.coop

Start the conversation with your elected officials now @ www.ourenergy.coop

2009 IEC Memorial Scholarships

Students Encouraged To Apply for 2009 IEC Memorial Scholarships

Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. Manager Jim Riddle has announced that for the thirteenth consecutive year the Illinois electric cooperatives will award academic scholarships to high school seniors.

Seven scholarships of $1,250 each will be awarded in 2009 to eligible high school seniors through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Four scholarships will be awarded to students who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A fifth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee. The sixth and seventh scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

"We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with this scholarship," says Riddle. "Clinton County Electric Cooperative and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one."

Candidates are judged on the basis of grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay that demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

For more information contact Ahren Langhauser at Clinton County Electric Cooperative at 618-526-7282 or ask your high school guidance counselor. Download an application at www.cceci.com. Deadline to apply - Jan. 1, 2009.

Youth To Washington Tour and Youth Day in Springfield

Clinton County Electric will again sponsor up to 12 area sophomores or juniors for a day in Springfield to be held on April 1, 2009, sponsored by the co-op and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Of these 12, two will be selected to go to Washington DC in June 2009 for an all-expense paid tour.

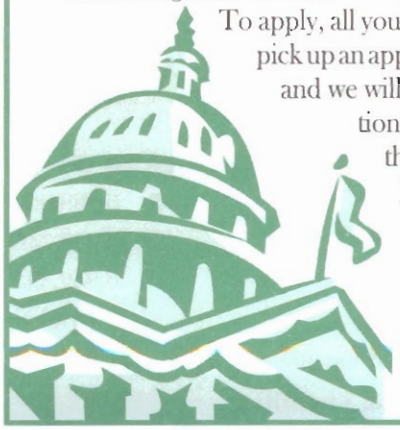
WHO MAY ENTER? All applicants must be sons or daughters of Clinton County Electric Cooperative members. If you meet that criterion, then you must be a high school sophomore or junior and attending one of the many high schools in the cooperative service area. Immediate members of the families of Clinton County Electric board of directors or employees are not eligible.

YOUTH TO SPRINGFIELD. A panel of judges will choose up to 12 students who will participate with more than 125 other youths from other Illinois electric cooperatives in Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day in Springfield set for Wednesday, April 1, 2009.

The day's activities in Springfield will include touring the state Capitol complex, visiting with legislators and a luncheon. The two Washington tour winners will be selected from these 12 students.

WASHINGTON TOUR. The two local winners will join some 50 other Illinois students, winners of similar contests sponsored by other Illinois electric cooperatives, at Springfield on June 13. They will travel on air-conditioned buses, returning June 20. While in Washington, 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.

For more information, call Clinton County Electric's Ahren Langhauser, Sue Laux or Jim Riddle at 526-7282.



To apply, all you need do is come in and pick up an application or call the co-op and we will mail you one. Applications must be returned to the co-op no later than Jan. 31, 2009.

Street Lighting and Highway Lighting Rate Schedule No. 0005

Availability

Available to metered and unmetered street lighting, security lighting and traffic lighting.

Rate:

Metered Lighting: Cooperative-owned Fixtures:			
Type 2 Fixture	7,000 Lumens	175 W Mercury Vapor	$1.25 per mo.
Type 4 Fixture	9,500 Lumens	100 W High Pressure Sodium	$1.50 per mo.
Type 5 Fixture	16,000 Lumens	150 W High Pressure Sodium	$2.25 per mo.
Unmetered Lights: Cooperative-owned Fixtures:			
Type 2 Fixture	7,000 Lumens	175 W Mercury Vapor	$9.25 per mo.
Type 4 Fixture	9,500 Lumens	100 W High Pressure Sodium	$6.00 per mo.
Type 5 Fixture	16,000 Lumens	150 W High Pressure Sodium	$8.50 per mo.
Metered Lighting: Other than Cooperative-owned Fixtures:			
Facility Charge:	(NO KWHs)	$22.00	
Energy Charge:	First 2,000 KWHs per mo.	@9.95 cents per KWH	
	Over 2,000 KWHs per mo.	@7.2 cents per KWH	

Financial Information

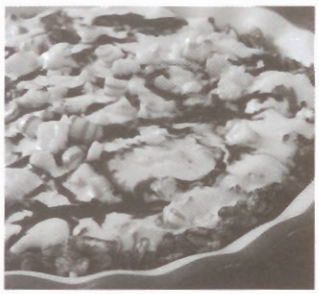
Balance Sheet	
As of October 31, 2008	
ASSETS (What We Own):	
Total Utility Plant	$21,729,990
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	8,298,401
Net Utility Plant	13,431,589
Cash & Temporary Investments	0
Investments in Associated Organizations	1,211,231
Accounts Receivable	152,875
Materials & Supplies	525,937
Prepayments & Other Deferred Expenses	51,300
Total Assets	**$15,372,932**
MEMBERS' EQUITY & LIABILITIES (What We Owe):	
Members' Capital Credits	$ 6,989,064
Other Equities	240,786
Long-Term Debt	6,959,395
Consumer Deposits	124,239
Other Liabilities & Deferred Income	1,059,448
Total Members' Equity & Liabilities	**$15,372,932**

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS	
For the Ten Months Ended October 31, 2008	
INCOME:	
Sale of Electricity & Other Services	$ 9,955,927
Other Income	374,476
Total Income	**$10,330,403**
EXPENSES:	
Cost of Electric Power	$ 7,465,467
Operations & Maintenance Expenses	926,921
General & Administrative Expenses	839,083
System Depreciation	537,437
Interest Expense	401,983
Total Expenses	**$10,170,891**
NET MARGINS	**$ 159,512**

RECIPES

Recipes taken from the December 2008 edition of Illinois Country Living Magazine.

Peppermint Stick Pie



3 C. crisp rice cereal
3/4 C. semi-sweet chocolate chips, melted
2 quarts peppermint stick ice cream, softened
Chocolate Syrup
Crushed peppermint candies

Combine cereal and chocolate, mix well. Press into the bottom and up the sides of an ungreased 10-inch pie plate. Freeze for 5 minutes. Spoon ice cream into the crust. Freeze until ready to serve. Garnish with chocolate syrup and peppermint candies. Pie may be made ahead and frozen. Remove from freezer 15 minutes before serving.

Christmas Salad

1 pkg. instant pistachio pudding
1 (20-oz.) can crushed pineapple, drained
1 jar maraschino cherries, drained and chopped
1 C. miniature marshmallows
1 ctn. whipped topping

Place dry pudding mix in a bowl. Add pineapple and cherries. Fold in marshmallows and whipped topping. Refrigerate overnight before serving.

Holiday Closings

All of us at Clinton County Electric Cooperative would like to wish all of you a Happy and Safe Holiday Season. The co-op headquarters will close at noon on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 and on New Years Eve, Dec. 31. We will be closed all day on Christmas Day, Dec. 25 and on New Years Day, Jan. 1.

As always, our phones will be manned 24/seven. In case of emergency, please call 526-7282. Our linemen are on call for emergencies. Thank you.

SAFE AND Sparkling

We want your holiday season to sparkle. Glowing Christmas tree lights and festively decorated houses are magical parts of the season. But remember to keep your tree watered, use only UL approved lights that are in good condition, place extension cords out of traffic and not under rugs, and unplug lights before you go to bed. When you decorate the outside, use only lights rated for outdoor use, and watch for overhead power lines when using a ladder to put up your decorations. And make sure you don't overload your electric circuits, a major cause of electrical fire.

Clinton County Electric Cooperative
618.526.7282 • Breese, Illinois
www.cceci.com

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 voting 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: James B. Riddle, President, Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., 475 N. Main Street, Breese, IL 62230, (618) 526-7282.

Minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting of Members

Held Thursday, March 20th, 2008

The 70th Annual Meeting of the Members of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held at the Central High School gymnasium, Route 50 West, Breese, Ill. on Thursday, March 20, 2008, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Joseph Voss, chairman of the cooperative, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Ronald L. Becker, Secretary-Treasurer of the cooperative, acted as secretary and kept the minutes thereof. Chairman Voss reported there was a quorum present.

The invocation was given by Vernon Mohesky, a trustee from District No. 2.

Upon motion made by Richard Holubek, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the rules of the meeting were accepted by the membership as proposed.

Chairman Voss introduced special guests present at the annual meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer Becker read the official notice of the meeting and informed the members that proof of mailing of the meeting notices and number of members is evidenced by receipt of mailing from the U.S. Postal Service. Upon a motion by Bill Guile, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the minutes of the 69th Annual Meeting were approved as they appeared in the December 2007 issue of the cooperative newsletter, Clinton County Connections.

At this time, Chairman Voss introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Scott Ramsey, president and general manager of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative.

Chairman Voss then addressed the membership, thanking everyone for attending the 2008 Annual meeting of members. He commented on the capital credit checks given out at this year's meeting; on the financial condition of the cooperative; and stated that Clinton County Electric is one of the smaller co-ops in the state, but "our rates are no higher than the larger ones and our service continues to be among the best." He also told the membership of the addition of a new transmission line and new substation located north of Breese, which will improve reliability for the whole system. He concluded his report by thanking the employees for their diligence, the board of directors and the Advisory Committee for their valuable input.

Secretary-Treasurer Ron Becker then presented the annual financial report of the cooperative, ending Dec. 31, 2007. Becker also told the membership that Clinton County Electric is valued at $15.7 million.

Chairman Voss then introduced President and COO Jim Riddle. President Riddle discussed Clinton County Electric rates; wholesale power cost provider and cost; climate issues; Southern Services, LLC; and automated meter reading. He told the members in attendance that the cooperative conducted, through the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, a Cost of Service Study in 2007-2008 in order to insure that rates remain equitable. Riddle stressed the importance of every cooperative member writing his or her legislators concerning federal climate change legislation. Riddle concluded his report by thanking the employees, the board of directors, the Advisory Committee and the members for their continued support.

At this time, Duane Noland, CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, addressed the audience regarding legislation pending before the U.S. Congress regarding federal climate change. He stated that it is of utmost importance that co-op members "start the dialogue" by asking tough question and requiring straight answers of our legislators.

Upon motion by Jim Tebbe, seconded and a vote taken thereon, all of the reports given by the officers and president thus far were accepted.

Next, Chairman Voss informed the members that, per Article 4, Section 4.06 of the cooperative bylaws, an Election and Credentials Committee was appointed by the board of trustees at their regular monthly board meeting on Nov. 27, 2007. He then called upon Ron Becker, secretary of the cooperative, to give the report of the Election and Credentials Committee.

Becker reported that the Election and Credentials Committee met on Feb. 4, 2008. He informed the membership in attendance that, since there were no contests for trustees in any of the districts, those trustees nominated might be elected by acclamation, if desired.

Upon motion by Myron Johnson, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the following trustees were elected by acclamation to serve three year terms beginning on March 20, 2008: Tim Hanke from District No. 1; Kevin Kampwerth from District No. 2; and Randy Renth from District No. 3.

Service awards were given to Trustee Kevin Kampwerth for 10 years of service; Lineman Allan Deiters for 20 years of service; President Jim Riddle for 20 years of service; Bookkeeper Cathy Markus for 35 years of service; and Line Foreman Myron Johnson for 35 years of service. It was also announced that Myron Johnson would be retiring from the Co-op in April 2008.

There being no further business to come before the 70th Annual Meeting of Members of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., upon a motion by Cletus Tebbe, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m. by Chairman Voss.

Following adjournment, four cash prizes were awarded: Christopher Miller, $100; Alex Schrage, $50; Marvin Molitor, $50; and Theodore Woltering, $50.

Joseph A. Voss, *Chairman*
Ronald L. Becker, *Secretary-Treasurer*

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

Tim Hanke

Kevin Kampwerth

Randy Renth

Vernon Mohesky

Richard Timmerman

Joseph Voss

John White

Gary Albers

Craig Benhoff

Harry Buller

Ron Deien

Allan Deiters

Mike Faust

Douglas Vonder Haar

Bob Kroeger

Ralph Kuhl

Ahren Langhauser

Sue Laux

Cathy Markus

Dale Nordike

Mary Jane Richter

Jim Riddle

Adam Robke

Brian Taylor

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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

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