Clinton County
Connection
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner
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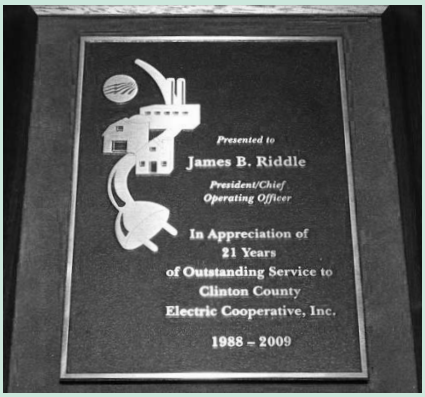
Jim Riddle Resigns Post as General Manager

Jim Riddle resigned his post as General Manager/President of Clinton County Electric effective April 1. He accepted the position of general manger/CEO of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, serving the Steeleville/Murphysboro area. Chairman of the Board Joe Voss, on behalf of the board of directors, presented Jim with this plaque in gratitude of his 21 years of dedication to Clinton County Electric.

Manager of Administrative Services Ralph Kuhl was appointed as Interim General Manager/President of the cooperative by the board of directors. He is doing double-duty at the co-op while the board of directors conducts a search for a new manager. A graduate of SIU-E and a CPA, Ralph has been with the co-op since 1999.



The board of directors and the employees of Clinton County Electric Cooperative thank Jim Riddle for his dedicated service to the co-op and want to wish him good luck in his new position as general manager of Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association.

New Employees

Maintenance man Ron Deien started employment with the co-op in August of 2008. Ron is a lifelong resident of Trenton, having graduated from Wesclin High School in 1985. Ron is married to Sherry and they have 2 sons, Brian and Ronnie.

Tyler Koerkenmeier was hired in January of this year as an apprentice Lineman to fill the vacancy when veteran lineman Myron Johnson retired. Tyler is a 2005 graduate of Mater Dei High School, Breese and a 2008 Graduate of North American lineman training center. Tyler resides in Breese.

IEC Memorial Scholarship Winner

Jared Eggerman of Carlyle is one of seven winners of this year's Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship. Eggerman's family receives electricity from Clinton County Electric Cooperative.

Eggerman competed for the scholarship with a record number of 262 other students from across the state. The $1,250 awards are given each year to six sons or daughters of electric co-op members, and one to the son or daughter of a co-op employee or director.

Candidates were judged on grade-point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities and a short essay demonstrating their knowledge of energy cooperatives.

Interim President/COO of Clinton County Electric Ralph Kuhl said, "The employees and board members of Clinton County Electric Cooperative have always been involved in our local schools and communities. We live here too and, like our members, have a vested interest in the future of our children. This scholarship is just one small way we can help make a difference for a student like Jared."

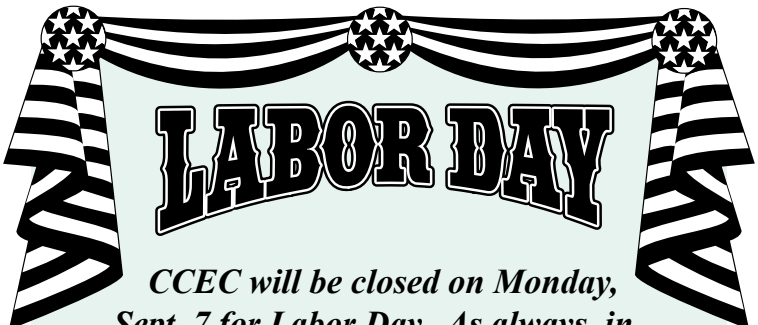
Interim President/COO of Clinton County Electric Ralph Kuhl (left) presents the 2009 Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarship to Jared Eggerman.

Clinton County Electric Cooperative serves more than 5,762 members over 1,036 miles of line in parts of Clinton, Fayette, Madison, Marion, St. Clair and Washington counties. For more information visit www.cceci.com.

2009 Clinton County Electric Scholarship Winners

- From Central H.S. Breese - Shannon Fuehne, daughter of co-op members Marvin and Donna Fuehne.
- From Mater Dei H.S. Breese - Alyson Winkeler, daughter of co-op members Ted and Judy Winkeler.
- From Wesclin H.S., Trenton/New Baden - Taylor Lockowitz, son of co-op members Mark and Barb Lockowitz
- From Mascoutah H.S., Mascoutah - Zachary McLemore, son of co-op members Marvin and Connie McLemore.
- From Christ Our Rock Lutheran H.S., Centralia - Jeffrey Augustine, son of co-op member Dr. Dana Mathis.
- From Carlyle High School, Jolyn Alexander, Dauthter of coop members Tom and Mitzi Alexander.

CCEC will be closed on Friday, July 3, in honor of Independence Day. Please drive safely and be careful as you celebrate our country's birthday!



CCEC will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7 for Labor Day. As always, in emergencies, please call 618-526-7282. Our phones are manned 24/seven.

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. Roland Burris
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.

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

Improve Your Air Conditioner's Efficiency

We're heading for the heart of air conditioning (AC) season, so now is the time to make sure your AC is operating at its best. Without regular service to your air conditioner, its efficiency can fall by as much as half, especially when it works overtime in the summer heat and high humidity. However, proper maintenance and repair on you're AC will save you money and can extend its life for roughly 15 years.

Air conditioners are complicated and require specialized tools to service them. It's best to hire an air-conditioning technician. An annual tune-up of your AC can cost $50 to $100, but can reduce your cooling cost by 5 percent or more.

Here are some maintenance tips that should be performed by a professional:

- Inspect the ductwork for loose joints and other leaks. Air leaks waste energy and should be sealed with duct mastic, not duct tape.
- Check hose connections for leaks, and make sure the condensation tube is draining freely.
- Clean the blower so that it can move air more efficiently.
- Oil the motors, and check the belts for tightness and wear.
- Verify the airflow by measurement. Improper airflow can affect efficiency.
- Clean the indoor evaporator and outdoor condenser coil. If it doesn't have an access panel, have one installed
- Check the refrigerant charge and adjust if needed. Remember that the law requires refrigerant to be recaptured when units are recharged.
- Straighten any bent films on the condenser and evaporator coils.
- Inspect the electric terminals.
- Make sure to clean and tighten the connections.

- Inspect the thermostat to ensure that it provides a reliable reading.
- Install a programmable thermostat to adjust your home's temperature automatically. This thermostat increases the temperature setting while you're gone and then returns the home to a more comfortable setting before you return.

Power Lines and Trees

A primary objective of Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. is to provide safe, reliable electrical service to its membership. Trees coming in contact with power lines can cause many, many problems, such as power outages, blinks and even fires.

We have an active tree-trimming program here at Clinton County Electric. The

trimming of trees and vegetation is necessary to maintain the quality of service and level of safety our members expect. Before you plant trees, we urge you to study the location of the power lines to ensure that no contact with the lines will occur in the future. The tree may only be two to three feet now but in a few years that tree is a potential danger if it comes in contact with a power line.

RECIPES

From Illinois Counrty Living June 2009 issue.

Chicken Salad

2-3 C. cooked chicken
1 C. chopped celery
1 C. white grapes
Salt, to taste
1 C. mandarin oranges or pineapple chunks (or both)
1/2 C. slivered almonds

Dressing:
1 T. lemon juice
1/2 C. mayonnaise
1/4 C. thick cream

Cut chicken into bite sized pieces. Toss chicken together with celery, grapes, fruit and almonds. Season to taste. In a separate bowl, combine lemon juice, mayonnaise, and thick cream together. Pour over chicken mixture and mix all together.

Baked Crab Rangoon

1 (6-oz.) can crab meat, drained
1 (4-oz.) pkg. cream cheese
1/4 C. thinly sliced green onions
1/4 C. mayonnaise
12 Wonton wrappers

Preheat oven to 350°. Mix crab meat, cream cheese, green onions and mayonnaise together. Put into a Zip Lock baggie and snip off one corner. Spray 12 mini muffin cups with non-stick spray. Place one wonton wrapper in each cup, allowing the edges of the wrappers to lay over the sides. Fill evenly with crab meat mixture. Gently fold wrapper over crab mixture. Bake18-20 minutes, until edges are golden brown.

Farewell To Co-op Friend

The employees and trustees of Clinton County Electric were saddened by the loss of one of its long-time friends and members. Wilbert "Wib" Rueter of Ferrin passed away on Tuesday, March 3. Wib was a life-long member of Clinton County Electric and past director of the cooperative, having served as president of the board. He also was past president of the Association of Illinois Electric Co-ops in Springfield. Wib was very active in church and community affairs. Surviving are his wife, Joan, a son, Curt, and two daughters, Vicki Straeter, and Sherri Williams. Our heartfelt sympathies are extended to his family.

We Need Your Number!

We need your help updating our records. With so many people canceling their landline phones and getting cell phones, our records are quickly becoming obsolete. When you get ready to pay your next electric bill, please write your phone number(s) on your bill stub and return it to us so we can update our records. This information is especially important during outages, but we may also have to contact you for other reasons.

If you have a work number or more than one cell number, please list these also. The phone numbers are for our use only; we never give them out to anyone else.

AT THE REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING ON TUESDAY, MAY 26TH THE CLINTON COUNTY ELECTRIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVED A POWER COST ADJUSTMENT (PCA) ADDER OF $.00222/kWh FOR JULY THRU DECEMBER 2009 BILLS (STARTING WITH JUNE USAGE).

IF YOU USE 1,000 KWHS PER MONTH, YOU WILL SEE AN ADDED $2.22 TO YOUR BILL. THE BOARD WILL REVIEW THE PCA ADDER AGAIN IN NOVEMBER TO SEE IF IT'S NEEDED FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 2010.

Account Numbers Please

To insure proper and accurate credit in a timely manner, please include your bill stub with your payment, even if you come into the office to pay, and especially if you drop it off in the night deposit box.

When we receive cash in the night deposit box, (and we discourage anyone from doing this!) with no bill stub or even money orders that aren't properly filled out with no bill stubs, it makes it impossible for us to know what account to credit these payments. Or, sometimes, a third party pays a bill and if there is not bill stub accompanying the check we don't know whose account to credit.

Please, always include your bill stub when paying, either in person or by mail.

Please Be Safe This Summer

Outdoor Electrical Safety Rules:

1. Never fly kites or model airplanes near power lines.
2. Never climb trees near power lines.
3. Stay away from substations and electrical equipment.
4. Stay away from downed power lines. Call for help.

Water and electricity don't mix! Never use electric appliances near water.

Meter Tampering – Dangerous and Illegal

Electricity is an unusual thing – you can't see it, smell it or taste it, but you had better respect it or it can cause you great harm and death. At Clinton County Electric, we take electrical safety very seriously.

Tampering with an electric meter is dangerous. Making an unauthorized adjustment to an electric meter is risking electrical shock – even death.

It is illegal to tap or bypass electric meters. Anyone convicted of such is subject to imprisonment, a fine or both. In addition, the person responsible for the service may be billed for electricity used fraudulently and possibly subjected to additional charges.

Meter tampering is not real prevalent at Clinton County, but it does happen occasionally. If you see a meter that appears to have been tampered with, or anything else suspicious, please report it to us immediately (618-526-7282). When someone steals electricity, it hurts honest paying customers by adding to the overall cost of service. Plus you could be saving someone's life or preventing someone from serious injury.

Concerned About Security?

If you have trouble remembering where you put your car keys, here is a tip that will also keep you safe!

Put them on the nightstand beside your bed every evening. That way, if you hear a noise outside or an intruder attempting to enter your home, just press the panic button on the key fob. The alarm will be set off and the vehicle's horn will continue to function until you push the panic button again or the battery dies.

It's doubtful that an intruder will stick around very long once an alarm starts sounding. At the very least, neighbors will look out windows and most criminals don't want that.

It's a good idea to carry your keys in your hand when walking to your vehicle from a building, especially in poorly lit areas. An activated car alarm is sure to draw attention that an attacker won't want.

Be sure to pass this on to friends and loved ones. It could save a life or a crime of sexual assault. And once you're in the habit of leaving your keys on your nightstand, you'll always know where they are!

From The Billing Department...

The Clinton County Electric Cooperative Billing Department consists of Mary Jane, Cathy and Sue. With a combined 105 years (yes! 105 years!!!) they have a vast knowledge of the operations and policies of the cooperative. They are happy to work with you to answer your questions.

Q. Every month my electric bill has a Facility Charge. What is this?

A. A Facility Charge is the cost incurred by your cooperative even if you do not use any electricity. It's a cost that does not go up or down based on the amount of power you use. This charge covers construction and day-to-day maintenance of distribution lines, substations, poles, meters, transformers, conductors, guy wires and upkeep on the lines that carry electricity from the distribution lines to your house.

Q. I have sold my house. Do I need to contact your office or can the new owners take care of that?

A. Both the buyer and the seller must contact our office to verify the changeover dates. The seller must give us a forwarding address to send the final bill and future capital credits. The buyer will need to complete and sign a membership application and provide us with both a Warranty Deed and a photo ID.

Q. I own rental property. Do I need to call you every time a renter moves in or out?

A. Yes, we always need to hear from both the owner and renter. Changeover dates must be agreed upon. The new renter will need to complete and sign a membership application, provide us with a photo ID and pay a deposit.

Q. I just purchased some property and need electric service. Who should I talk to?

A. If there has never been service to the property, you will need to speak to our Engineering Department; Harry Buller, Bob Kroeger or Ahren Langhauser.

Q. I own a clubhouse and since I only use it six months out of a year, I am thinking of disconnecting the service for six months. Can I do this? Are there costs involved?

A. Yes you can disconnect this service, but if you want it re-connected within 12 months, a $25.75 Facility Charge will be charged for each month the service was disconnected. For example: If you disconnect service in October and want it reconnected in May then a $154.50 fee would have to be paid before we would re-connect. That's the same amount you would pay if you left the service connected, so there actually is no advantage to disconnecting.

Q. My usage seems awfully high compared to previous months. Is there something wrong with my meter?

A. Usage each month can fluctuate depending on weather conditions, time of year, number of people in the household and many other reasons. If necessary, we will install a test meter or send a lineman out to check on the co-op's equipment to make sure everything is working properly.

Q. What happens if I don't have the money to pay my bill by the 25th of the month?

A. If payment is not received by the 25th of the month, a 5 percent penalty is then added. Then a delinquent notice is prepared and mailed on or about the 28th of the month. This delinquent notice also has the final disconnect date printed on it and you normally have 10 days in which to pay the overdue bill. If you cannot pay the overdue bill by the final disconnect date, it's your responsibility to call or come in to make arrangements to pay this bill. Payment arrangements must be made with someone in the office, not a lineman or the after-hours answering service. If you do not talk directly with an authorized representative, you will probably be disconnected for non-payment. If no arrangements are made, or if you do not adhere to arrangements that have already been made, CCEC will send an employee out to your premises with orders either to collect or disconnect the service. At this point, you can still avoid disconnection by paying the past-due portion of the bill and the $35 collection fee. The co-op employee is authorized to accept payment. You cannot make arrangements with the collector to pay this bill. However, he may be able to establish radio contact with the office and receive permission to grant certain considerations in special circumstances. Usually the collector will tell the member to call the office while he awaits further instructions. Even if you make arrangements at this time, there will be a $35 Collection Fee added to your bill.

We know that some of you are having a rough time in these tough economic times, and we will try to work with you, within reason, regarding making payment. But you must understand that when you make payment arrangements, you then must follow through with those arrangements. We never want to disconnect a member. Disconnection is always a last resort.

Once you are disconnected for non-payment, however, our flexibility disappears. Then we have to follow policy and policy states that once a member is disconnected for non-payment, all past due bills, plus all collection fees, plus a re-connection fee, plus a deposit must be paid in cash or money order before service is re-connected. Obviously, it's in the member's best interest to pay, or at least make payment arrangements, prior to the final disconnect date.

If you have any questions concerning CCEC's billing procedures, please call our office, 618-526-7282, Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Ralph Kuhl ..... Manager of Administrative Services
Bob Kroeger ..... Engineer
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BALANCE SHEET

As of April 30, 2009

ASSETS (What We Own):	
Total Utility Plant	22,176,900
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	8,470,558
Net Utility Plant	13,706,342
Cash & Temporary Investments	0
Investments in Associated Organizations	1,478,384
Accounts Receivable	436,721
Materials & Supplies	620,287
Prepayments & Other Deferred Expenses	43,408
Total Assets	16,285,142
MEMBERS' EQUITY & LIABILITIES (What We Owe):	
Members' Capital Credits	7,151,991
Other Equities	253,996
Long-Term Debt	7,845,804
Consumer Deposits	128,921
Other Liabilities & Deferred Income	904,430
Total Members' Equity & Liabilities	16,285,142

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the Four Months Ended April 30, 2009

INCOME	
Sale of Electricity & Other Services	4,541,904
Other Income	62,052
Total Income	4,603,956
EXPENSES:	
Cost of Electric Power	3,302,822
Operations & Maintenance Expenses	378,137
General & Administrative Expenses	381,437
System Depreciation	216,222
Interest Expense	169,050
Total Expenses	4,447,668
NET MARGINS	**156,288**