




# Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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Mike Johnson

**The Cooperative office will be closed Wednesday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day and Monday, September 3 in observance of Labor Day.**

## 'Outages – some are complex'

The cooperative members east of Aviston probably noticed Clinton County Electric Cooperative experienced three rather lengthy power outages during this past February and March. And on top of that, the outages occurred at inconvenient times of the day.

Let me try to explain each of those outages in detail so that the membership understands how complex "the grid" can be.

Outage #1: February 16, 2012, 2:05 a.m.; a City of Breese lightning arrester blew up causing a "fault" on Ameren's (previously Illinois Power's) transmission line. Ameren's switches detected the fault and sectionalized (de-energized) everything between Clinton County's Beckemeyer Substation and Clinton County's Breese Substation. Your first question might be, "How does an electrical problem within the City of Breese affect Clinton County Electric members?" Clinton County Electric, the City of Breese, the City of Carlyle and Ameren customers all use Ameren's transmission line that runs east/west on Highline Road as its source of electricity. Whenever there is a "fault", those being served between the two "opens" are without power. Personally, I live within the City of Breese and my power was restored within 15 minutes or so because the City of Breese has its own generating capabilities, as does the City of Carlyle. Clinton County Electric does not have any ability to generate its own electricity. Once the outage was reported, Ameren dispatched crews to their transmission line for a visual inspection. This process takes Ameren longer since they have no personnel that reside in the near area. Ameren crews "ran the line," which means they drove the line, looking for any apparent damage such as a tree limb laying in the line or broken equipment. Once they observed

no damage, they instructed the dispatcher in Decatur, IL to re-energize the line. The line re-energized and the lights were back on to Clinton County Electric Cooperative members. This outage affected 2,356 Clinton County Electric meters and lasted a little short of two hours. Clinton County substations affected were: (1) Breese, (2) Old State, and (3) Bartelso.

Outage 2: March 17, 2012 at about 8:30 p.m.; On St. Patrick's Day night, severe storms came rolling into the territory. Lighting struck Southern Illinois Power Cooperative's (SIPC) metering configuration located at our Beckemeyer substation. This resulted in a fault and de-energized Ameren's transmission line from Beckemeyer to Sandoval. This caused outages at Clinton County Electric's (1) Beckemeyer, (2) Keyesport, (3) Ferrin, and (4) both Shattuc substations. Ameren crews were dispatched to the outage for visual inspection and possible repair. Ameren crews found no visual problems and instructed dispatchers in Decatur to re-energize the transmission. In the attempt to re-energize the line, a flash appeared at the SIPC metering point; this caused an additional fault on the transmission all the way back to Aviston, which resulted in Clinton County Electric's (1) Bartelso, (2) Breese, and (3) Old State substations to go dark. At this point, eight of our twelve substations were without power. Now, the problem was determined. Clinton County crews worked on by-passing SIPC's metering. Once that was accomplished, Ameren once again tried to re-energize the transmission line. This time it held and power was restored to all eight substations. The result of this power outage was over 4000 meters out of service, with the longest

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# CCEC sponsored youth programs

The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives sponsored the “2012 Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day” on March 28, 2012 in Springfield, Ill. The purpose of the Youth Day is to help students learn more about cooperatives, meet their legislators and see our state government in action. Quela Donald, Haley Johnson, Kelsey Knolhoff, Madelyn Mensing, and Shannon Mensing, high school students from the CCEC area applied and were chosen to attend the Youth Day. They joined more than 300 high school students from around the state for the day’s activities. The day included touring the Capitol Building, the State Supreme Court, the Old State Capitol Building and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. The students were privileged to meet with Senators Kyle McCarter, John O. Jones and David Luechtefeld along with Representative Jerry Costello while at the Capitol Building. They also heard words of wisdom from Secretary of State Jesse White and Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon.

Two of the students attending were chosen by a panel of judges to participate in the “Youth to Washington” tour. This is an all expense paid week-long trip to Washington, D.C. taking place this month. The 2012 winners of the Washington D.C. trip from Clinton County Electric were

*Secretary of State Jesse White addressed students at Youth Day.*



Madelyn Mensing, daughter of Mike and Monica Mensing and Shannon Mensing, daughter of Bob and Marla Mensing all of Breese. Also attending “Youth to Washington” this year is Kelsey Knolhoff, daughter of Employee Brenda Knolhoff and her husband Stewart, of Carlyle. Children of cooperative trustees and employees are eligible to attend the trip to Washington DC at their own expense. Madelyn, Shannon and Kelsey will be outstanding representatives for Clinton County Electric as they are traveling to Washington D.C. this month with approximately

80 other students representing cooperatives throughout Illinois.

Children of cooperative members who are sophomores or juniors in high school are eligible to apply for the Youth Day in Springfield, giving them a chance to participate in the annual “Youth to Washington” trip. For more information, visit our website at [www.cceci.com](http://www.cceci.com) or watch for information in our December and January issues of this newsletter. Additional photos of the Youth Day in Springfield can be found on page 9 of this publication.

## President’s letter *(Continued from page 16a)*

continuous outage lasting around 4.5 hours.

Outage 3: March 26, 2012, 4:20 a.m.; This outage was very similar to the first outage. There was a 69 KV lightning arrester in the City of Breese that faulted, resulting in Ameren’s transmission line de-energizing. The City of Breese and Ameren crews isolated the problem and power was restored.

This outage affected 2,055 meters and lasted a little less than 1 hour. Clinton County Electric substations affected were: (1) Breese, (2) Bartelso, (3) Albers and (4) Old State.

Please note the purpose of this article was not to blame others for power outages within our service territory, but rather to explain to our members the complexities of

power restoration when everything is not under our complete control.

Providing our members with affordable, reliable electricity and restoring electrical service as quickly and safely as possible continues to be our goal. As always, if you have any comments or suggestions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at [Johnson@cceci.com](mailto:Johnson@cceci.com).

# Call before you dig: 811 is the number to call

Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling 811 before each job. Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call – even small projects like planting trees and shrubs.

Don't gamble with your safety – knowing where underground lines are buried before each digging project helps prevent injury, expense and penalties. In 2004, according to industry data, CGA estimates there were approximately 680,000 underground line strikes resulting in damages, including service outages and injury. Many of these accidents might have easily been avoided by calling ahead to have lines marked before digging.

One easy phone call to 811 starts the process to get your underground utility lines marked for free. When you call 811 from anywhere in the country, your call will be routed to your local One Call Center which is JULIE in Illinois. Operators there will ask you for the location of your digging job and contact all affected

utility companies on your behalf. Those companies will then send a professional locator to mark your lines within a few days.

The colors of the paint and flags represent a universal color to what is buried below ground.

- Red – Electric
- Orange – Communications, Telephone/CATV
- Blue – Potable Water
- Green – Sewer/Drainage
- Yellow – Gas/Petroleum Pipe Line
- Purple – Reclaimed Water
- White – Premark site of intended excavation

Once your underground lines have been marked, you will know the approximate location of your utility lines and can dig safely, because knowing what's below protects you and your family. (Please note, it is the responsibility of the owner to inform the excavator of any underground power lines that are not owned by Clinton County Electric Cooperative). For more information, visit [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com) or [www.Illinois1call.com](http://www.Illinois1call.com).



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

## Protect yourself against CO poisoning

Protect yourself and your family against CO poisoning at work and at home. Carbon monoxide is colorless, odorless, tasteless, and potentially deadly. And it's the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the United States.

Carbon monoxide, or CO, prevents oxygen from being absorbed into the bloodstream. Without oxygen, of course, the body stops functioning properly, causing damage to tissues and the brain that can lead to disability and death. CO is produced by many common household and workplace appliances: gas water heaters, kerosene

space heaters, gasoline and diesel power generators, and others; cigarette smoke, spray paint, and paint removers are also possible sources.

Because you can't see it or smell it, be on the lookout for these symptoms:

- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea/vomiting
- Mental confusion
- Impairment of vision and/or hearing
- Loss of consciousness
- Feeling chilled

Your first and best line of defense is a reliable CO detector. Check and change its batteries regularly, or install detectors that plug into a standard AC outlet. In addition, have your heating/air conditioning appliances serviced yearly to make sure they're not leaking CO into your home or office. Avoid using any kind of fuel-burning appliance indoors.

Victims of CO exposure should seek medical attention immediately.

# Scholarship winners

Each year, Clinton County Electric Cooperative awards a \$500 scholarship to a student at each of the following schools: Carlyle HS, Central HS, CORLHS, Mascoutah HS, Mater Dei HS and Wesclin HS. Congratulations to the following sons and daughters of Cooperative members who were awarded \$500 scholarships last month on behalf of Clinton County Electric Cooperative:

Carlyle High School	Chris Abernathy, son of Tom and Cindy Abernathy of Carlyle
Central High School	Kelly Stukenberg, daughter of Thomas and June Stukenberg of Germantown
Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School	Morgan Michael, son of Noel and Christie Michael of Centralia
Mascoutah High School	Matt Baechle, son of Ronald Baechle of Mascoutah
Mater Dei Catholic High School	Mallory Mensing, daughter of Bob and Marla Mensing of Breese
Wesclin High School	Justin Groennert, son John and Lisa Groennert of Trenton

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## Employee spotlight

Steve Kalmer was raised on a family grain and cattle farm located West of Damiansville, the son of Jerome and Rose Kalmer (deceased). Steve attended grade school in Damiansville then high school in Breese. In 1989 Steve received his BS from SLU with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering specializing in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering. He began his career at McDonnell Douglas as a Manufacturing Engineer. In 1990 he accepted a position with the Department of the Navy, Crystal City, VA and later Pax River, MD where he was the Aircraft Program Manager Systems Engineer for the T-44A Pegasus (horse with wings), a Beechcraft King Air. In this position he was responsible for all systems engineering, financial and logistical procurement, contract development and oversight and was the technical expert for Class A, B and C mishap investigations.

In 1996 Steve married Barb Hemker from Germantown and they moved back to Clinton County the



Steve Kalmer

following year. Over the last nine years Steve has worked for HQ AMC as the Command Energy Manager and Utilities Engineer. He is a Certified Energy Manager and is responsible for managing all utilities and contracts related to electric, NG, LP, fuel oil and water at eight Air Force installations and two Joint Bases. He is a member of the SAME, AEE, CCFB, ICGA, St. Damian's Holy Name and Damiansville Chamber of Commerce. In Steve's spare time he enjoys sports and farming with his dad and Uncle Lenny. Steve and his wife have two sons; Calvin and Christopher.