Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

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Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)

At the regular meeting of the board of trustees on Dec. 18, 2018, the decision was made to invest in an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system. Simply put, AMI technology allows two-way communications between your meter and Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC). AMI will improve service to the membership, as well as the efficiency and reliability of our electric system. It will also provide benefits for the billing department, customer service and engineering and operations.

Billing

AMI will provide us with timely meter readings on the last day of each month, resulting in a consistent number of days of usage on your bill every month. It will also provide us with accurate meter readings. Currently, we physically read each meter every month. For every reading that is incorrect, we send someone out to verify the reading.

AMI will send notification if an attempt is made to tamper with a meter or steal power. It will also provide valuable data and information for rate development in the future.

Customer Service

In customer service, AMI will be an invaluable resource for assisting our members with high bill complaints. AMI will deliver the data needed to provide our members with daily and hourly consumption. It will also integrate with our SmartHub app, which will give the ability to view daily and hourly consumption without contacting the office.

With AMI, we will have the ability to verify momentary interruptions or blinks in your service. Sometimes blinks originate on our side of the meter, sometimes they originate on the member's side. Either way, AMI will help identify those problems and resolve the issue in a timely manner.

Engineering & Operation

In the engineering and operations department, we will be able to more efficiently manage and respond to outages. The two-way communication of the AMI system will allow us to poll the system and look for meters that are without power. However, if you experience an outage, please call. Do not ever assume we know you are without power.

The data provided by the AMI system will be a better source of information to use as a basis for our construction work plan. The construction work plan is an important tool for addressing service reliability.

Currently, CCEC does not have a load control program. However, the AMI technology will put us in a good position to evaluate if there ever becomes a need for load control.

AMI network installation began in June. We hope to begin the meter installation around the first of August and have the project completed by the first of July 2019. Throughout the year, all main meters on our system will be replaced, and you will likely see a CCEC lineman in your neighborhood.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the office Monday through Friday, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 800-526-7282.

CCEC Apprentice Lineman John Schroeder installing a router on our pole as part of the AMI project.

Youth to Washington

At the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Annual Meeting in Chicago in 1957, Senator Lyndon B. Johnson addressed the crowd stating, "If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents." Soon thereafter, Illinois sent a busload of young people to Washington. By 1964, approximately 400 students from 12 states made the trip to D.C. The word of the program continued to spread, and today, more than 1,800 students and chaperones participate in the Youth Tour every year.

The program is stronger than ever, and Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) was proudly represented by a local student on this year's "Youth to Washington" tour held from June 8-15. Owen Henderson was chosen by a panel of judges, at "Youth Day" in Springfield to attend this year's Youth to Washington Tour. Owen boarded a bus in Mt. Vernon early Friday morning, June 8, and started what was an eye-opening experience by seeing numerous D.C. area attractions and monuments, learning more about electric cooperatives, and creating countless friendships which will last for many years to come.

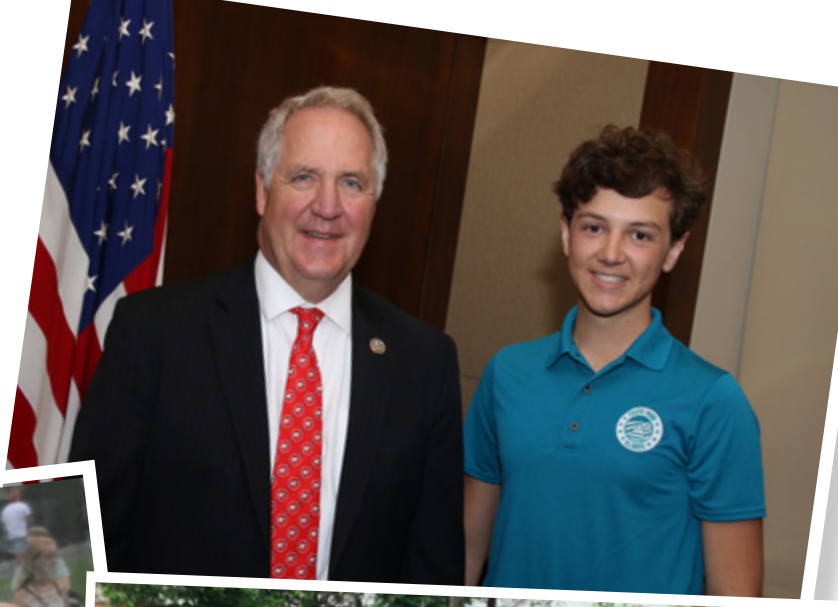
Over 1,800 youth, a record high for the "Youth to Washington" tour, from all over the United States gathered at the Hyatt Regency Hotel one day for the Youth Day assembly to hear phenomenal speakers. The students were privileged to hear Keynote speaker Mike Schlappi, who delivered an inspiring message from his wheelchair. Schlappi was accidentally shot at age 14, and doctors told him he would never walk again. Prior to his accident, he was dreaming of a career as a top American athlete. In his message he stated, "Just because you can't stand up, doesn't mean you can't stand out." His message was inspiring for the young and old.

The week in Washington, D.C. was action-packed with 71 students representing cooperatives from across Illinois. The students visited historical and cultural sites including Arlington National Cemetery, the Supreme Court, Newseum, Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, a variety of memorials and the U.S. Capitol. Among fun activities the students enjoyed were the Marine Corps Sunset Parade, the Smithsonian Museums and an assembly of Youth Tour participants from across the nation. A highlight of the trip was the opportunity to meet our U.S. representatives and senators. Owen was able to personally meet with Congressman John Shimkus and U.S. Senator Dick Durbin.

The Youth Program allows today's students to experience government first-hand by visiting Capitol Hill and seeing the historical sites in Washington, D.C. Owen, along with all the students from Illinois who attended, did not want this awesome week to end. They made long-lasting friendships and will remember their week of learning more about our wonderful nation for a very long time.

Each year, CCEC sponsors two students to attend this week-long all expense paid educational

trip. Children of Board of Trustee members and employees are eligible to attend at their own expense. The program is kicked off each year in March or April with "Youth Day" in Springfield and followed by the trip to Washington, D.C. in June. Information about next year's trip will be available in the December issue of the ICL or can be found on our website at www.cceci.com under the Youth Programs tab.



YOUTH TOUR ILLINOIS

Henderson elected to the board of the Chip and Pop Co-op

Owen Henderson, son of Hank and Laurie Henderson of Trenton, was selected to represent Clinton County Electric Cooperative on the Youth to Washington Tour held June 8-15. During the trip to Washington, Owen sought election to the board of directors for the Chip and Pop Co-op. After interviewing with members of the nominating committee, he was selected as one of nine board members.

The Chip and Pop Co-op works very similar to that of an actual cooperative. It provides snacks and drinks to the students/members throughout the week. As a member of the board, Owen interviewed and ultimately hired the manager and the people who handled and distributed the snacks and drinks. The board also decided how much to charge for the items sold. At the end of the week, they had margins/profits of $150. Owen and the rest of the board held a final meeting to decide what to do with the margins/profits made by their cooperative.

Owen Henderson, second from the left in the back row, was elected to the board of directors of the Chip and Pop Co-op on the Youth to Washington Tour June 8-15.

They decided to donate the margins to a suicide awareness organization. At the end of the week, Owen enjoyed his time on the board and was grateful for the learning experience.

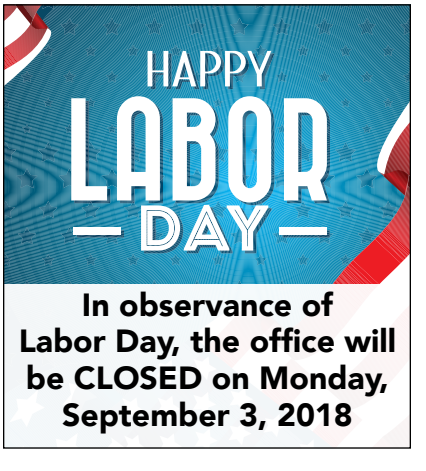
Change to CCEC's heating and cooling program

At the regular meeting of the board of trustees on April 24, 2018, the board approved a change to Clinton County Electric Cooperative's (CCEC) high efficiency heating and cooling program.

Effective with the August 2018 electric consumption, members with a geothermal system or high efficiency air to air heat pump will receive a $7.50 monthly bill credit. This will take the place of the discounted heating and cooling kilowatt hours currently being registered through your second meter and eliminate the monthly $4.00 System Delivery Charge for that second meter.

With the upcoming installation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), the board decided it is not in the best financial interest of the cooperative to replace the approximately 900 second meters on our system. However, CCEC is committed to high efficiency heating and cooling technology and wants to keep an incentive available for those using high efficiency units.

If you are a member who currently has a second meter and are getting the discount on heating and cooling kilowatt hours, there is nothing you need to do. You will automatically receive the new monthly credit starting with August 2018 consumption. If you are not taking advantage of the discounted kilowatt hours or are thinking of installing a geothermal system or high efficiency air to air heat pump, please provide the office with a bill of sale for your unit and we can set you up to receive the new credit.

This change is revenue neutral. It will not generate any more or less revenue for CCEC.

If you have any questions regarding this rate change, do not hesitate to contact the office Monday through Friday, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 800-526-7282.