Clinton County Connection

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Minutes from the 80th Annual Meeting of Members

The 80th Annual Meeting of Members of Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held at the Central High School gymnasium, 7740 Old US Hwy 50, Breese, Ill. on Thursday, March 15, 2018.

The meeting was called to order by Vernon Mohesky, Chairman of the CCEC board at 7:30 p.m.

Randy Renth, Secretary-Treasurer of the cooperative, acted as secretary and kept the minutes thereof.

Chairman Mohesky reported there was a quorum present.

The invocation was given by Steve Kalmer, a trustee from District No. 3.

All present were then asked to stand as Duane Grapperhaus and Kelly Perez played the National Anthem.

As in the past, Robert's Rules of Order governed the meeting.

Chairman Mohesky then introduced the Clinton County Electric Board of Trustees, Advisory Board, and special guests including Paul Furtak, Vice President for Risk & Strategic Planning and Katie Foley, representing U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth's office. Employees of Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative who were present and recognized included: Chris Reynolds, Assistant Creative Services Manager, Paul Dow, Coordinator of Video Productions, Ambyr Crawford, Engineering and Training Specialist, Lisa Brammer, Legal and Government Relations Coordinator and Jennifer Sours, Accountant.

Secretary-Treasurer Randy Renth 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 motion by Glenn Foppe, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the minutes from the 2017 Annual Meeting were approved as they appeared in the December 2017 Illinois Country Living magazine. Upon motion by Rich Diekemper, seconded and a vote taken thereon, Trustees Robert Gerstenecker from District 1 and Vernon Mohesky from District 2 were re-elected to three-year terms. Kevin Wiegmann was elected to replace retiring District 3 trustee Ron Becker.

Vernon Mohesky, Chairman of the Board, began his report by reminding everyone that capital credit checks had been mailed. He then spoke about CCEC's accomplishments in 2017. Mohesky went on to explain CCEC has not had a lost time accident since April 2009, which is almost 353,000 hours worked without an accident. He then focused on reliability and said, "Our goal is to have no more than one hour of outage per member, per year. We attained that goal in 2014. We almost made it in 2015 and in 2016 we missed that goal with 7.46 member outage hours." He reminded everyone the reason for not making the goal in 2016 was two large Ameren transmission outages. He went on to say "In 2017, we again almost attained our goal with 1.33 average member outage hours. If not for a car accident that left 526 members without electricity, we would have made our goal with only .90 hour of outage per member, per year." Mohesky then touched briefly on CCEC's pole testing and tree trimming programs.

The next topic Chairman Mohesky covered was "fair and reasonable" rates. He spoke about the Cost of Service study performed in 2015, the rate change that took place in April 2017 and reminded the membership the change was revenue neutral for CCEC. He then said, "In order to verify we have made the right decision, the board decided not to make any additional adjustments to the System Delivery Charge in 2018, but rather have another Cost of Service Study done by another vendor."

Chairman Mohesky then informed the membership of the decision to implement Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). He closed his portion of the evening by talking about "Autonomy and Independence"

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and "Member's Economic Participation," two of the seven cooperative principles.

Next, Secretary/Treasurer Randy Renth said Clinton County Electric continues to return capital credit patronage back to the membership. Recently the cooperative mailed approximately $200,000 to those who were members in 1991. Renth reported the cooperative closed 2017 with total revenue of $17,219,812, total expenses of $15,895,285 and margins of $1,324,527.

Then Paul Furtak, Vice President for Risk & Strategic Planning at Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), which is the source of power for Clinton County Electric, provided a brief history of SIPC, as well as an overview of the generation resources owned by SIPC. Furtak explained the generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative continues to strive for stability and reliability. He said, "The coal fired units at the Marion plant continue to operate at very high availability levels. This is due in large part to the experienced and dedicated staff at SIPC."

Controlling costs has also been a priority at SIPC. Good management of new coal contracts and other resources are helping to reduce costs for SIPC and ultimately its distribution cooperatives and their member/owners. Furtak reported on the status of Prairie States Generating Campus (PSGS) in Marissa, in which SIPC is part-owner. "In spite of challenges, the operation and performance of the Prairie States continues to improve."

Next, President/COO Bob Kroeger came to the podium and spoke of the number one priority at Clinton County Electric: safety. He said, "Now when I say safety, it doesn't just mean employee safety. We also have an obligation to maintain an electric system that will keep the general public safe as well." Kroeger also mentioned the Safety Leadership award presented to CCEC at the 2018 Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives Safety, Supervisory, and Technical Conference saying, "A culture of safety doesn't just happen. It requires focus, commitment and dedication from everyone involved."

Kroeger then read CCEC's mission statement stating, "Every aspect of our Mission Statement can be attained, as long as we maintain high reliability standards. Over the past 10 years, we have put programs in place that have done just that. Programs such as our right-of-way maintenance, pole testing and treatment, and line rebuilding programs that CCEC continued through 2017 and hopefully into the foreseeable future."

After talking in depth about the programs in place to maintain high reliability standards, Kroeger turned his focus to AMI. He explained, "AMI will be beneficial in the areas of billing, customer service and engineering and operations." Kroeger hopes to begin AMI installation around the first of August 2018 and be completed by the first of July 2019.

Next on Kroeger's agenda was Satilla REMC in Georgia. Back in September, in the wake of Hurricane Irma, two CCEC Journeyman Lineman traveled to Georgia to assist with outage restoration. Kroeger wanted the membership to know just how grateful Satilla REMC was for the assistance and read a thank you letter from REMC. He then said, "I hope we are never in a situation that requires help from Georgia, but if we do, it's good to know Satilla REMC is ready to help."

Kroeger concluded his address to the membership by mentioning a few member service and end use programs. Effective April 1, 2018 the cost for a 50-gallon water heater will increase from $150 to $250. He also encouraged anyone thinking about installing a solar array to contact the office before doing so.

Upon motion by Teresa Mullins, seconded and a vote taken thereon, all the reports given by the officers and the president were approved.

Kroeger then gave an update concerning the employees of Clinton County Electric. Allan Deiters completed 30 years of dedicated service and Craig Benhoff 10 years of dedicated service.

The meeting drew to a close with Kroeger giving an update on the trustees. Ron Becker retired from the Board of Trustees after 27 years of dedicated services.

There being no further business to come before the 80th Annual Meeting of Members of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., upon motion by Jim Markus, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Mohesky at 8:28 p.m.

Following adjournment, four cash prizes were awarded. The winners were: Paul and Sandra Stockert, $100; Verlan Laux, $50; Allen and Sharon Pichon, $50; and Brian and Cheryl Kreke, $50.

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Randy Renth, Secretary/Treasurer

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Kevin Kampwerth, Chairman

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: Bob Kroeger, President, Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., 475 N. Main Street, Breese, IL 62230, (618) 526-7282.

2019 Youth Day and Youth Tour

Clinton County Electric will again sponsor up to 12 area sophomores or juniors to attend Youth Day in Springfield to be held in the spring of 2019, sponsored by the cooperative and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Two attending Youth Day will be selected to go to Washington, D.C. from June 7-14, 2019 for an all-expense paid tour. See our January 2019 issue for more details.

2019 Clinton County Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

Thursday, March 21, 2019
Be sure to mark your calendar!

It is never too early to plan for your upcoming annual meeting.

Office closing notice

Christmas	New Year's	
DEC Mon 24, Tue 25	DEC Mon 31,	JAN Tue 1

Although the office will be closed, view your account information and pay your bill 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by visiting our website www.cceci.com or by calling 800-526-7282.

The Trustees and Employees of Clinton County Electric wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Cary Dickinson

Robert Gerstenecker

Tim Hanke

Stephen Kalmer

Kevin Kampwerth

Vernon Mohesky

Randy Renth

Joseph Voss

Kevin Wiegmann

Craig Benhoff

Jason Deering

Ron Deien

Allan Deiters

Mike Faust

Jacob Haselhorst

Justin Hubert

Jared Kampwerth

Brenda Knolhoff

Mike Korte

Bob Kroeger

Ralph Kuhl

Ahren Langhauser

John Schroeder

Katy Singler

Brian Taylor

Carrie Trame

Doug Vonder Haar

Kyle Wiegmann