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## Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. Annual Meeting Held Thursday, March 21, 2019

Member-owners of Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) held their 81st Annual Meeting of Members on Thursday, March 21 at Central Community High School in Breese. During the meeting, members re-elected three members to the board of trustees to three-year terms and heard updates regarding the cooperative's safety record, finances, Advanced Metering

Infrastructure (AMI) technology and rates. Every registered member received a \$20 bill credit and the evening closed with four cash prizes being awarded.

Upon motion by Marvin Korte, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the minutes from the 2018 Annual Meeting were approved. Upon motion by Ken Holtgrave, seconded and a vote taken thereon, trustees Cary

Dickinson from district 1, Joe Voss from district 2 and Steve Kalmer from district 3 were re-elected to three-year terms.

Board Chairman Kevin Kampwerth reported the cooperative takes safety very seriously and has gone more than 393,400 hours without a lost time accident. He then

**Continued on 20b ▶**



## Annual Meeting continued from 20a

focused on reliability and said, “Our goal is to have no more than one hour of outage per member, per year.” He went on to say, “In 2017, we almost attained our goal with 1.33 average member outage hour, and we finished 2018 at 3.89-member outage hours. The miss in 2018 was, for the most part, due to an Ameren transmission line outage caused by storms that rolled through the area on June 28.” Kampwerth touched briefly on CCEC’s pole testing and tree trimming programs.

Kampwerth then spoke about capital credits saying, “The Clinton County Electric board of trustees takes pride in returning patronage to our membership. We approved a payout of \$225,000 in general retirements and \$60,000 in estate retirements. This payout is approximately \$35,000 more than in previous years and was approved in hopes of staying on a 30-year retirement cycle.”

In 2018, Clinton County Electric also exhibited the cooperative principle of “cooperation among cooperatives” by sending line crews to help with the restoration efforts in North Carolina after Hurricane Florence wreaked havoc causing widespread outages. “It is good to know if we are ever in the same situation, North Carolina cooperatives would be happy to reciprocate the gesture,” Kampwerth said.

He then spoke about the cooperative principle “concern for community,” citing all of the annual programs made available to members of the community courtesy of CCEC: \$4,000 awarded through the Touchstone Energy Grant program; Youth Day and Youth Tour; and \$7,000 awarded in scholarships to high school seniors.

Chairman Kampwerth closed his portion of the evening by mentioning 2019 marks CCEC’s 80th year in business. He also said, “Though our mission statement has recently

changed, our actual mission is the same today as it was 80 years ago: to provide safe and reliable service to benefit our member-owners.” This new mission statement was approved at the Feb. 26, 2019 regular meeting of the board of trustees.

Next, Secretary/Treasurer Randy Renth reported the cooperative closed 2018 with total revenue of \$18,140,350, total expenses of \$17,044,564 and margins of \$1,095,786. He went on to report CCEC sold 147,183,583 million kilowatts and is holding steady at 6,009 meters. This represents less than 1 percent growth since 2015.

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 stated the generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative continues to strive for stability and reliability. Furtak 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.”

Furtak reported on the status of Prairie States Generating Campus (PSGS) in Marissa, in which SIPC is part-owner stating, “In spite of challenges, the operation and performance of 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, “Not only are we concerned about the safety of our employees, but we also strive to maintain an electric system that keeps the general public safe as well.” Kroeger also mentioned the live line demonstrations performed by CCEC linemen throughout the year, at different events around the county to teach the hazards of contact with power lines. The demonstration also presents practical safety tips for avoiding dangerous situations.

Kroeger then moved to rates. He explained the 2018 cost of service study prepared for the cooperative by an outside firm. Kroeger reported the results showed the cooperative’s current rates were headed in the right direction. Wholesale power costs from the cooperative’s generation and transmission cooperative, SIPC, rose



*During Clinton County Electric Cooperative’s 81st Annual Meeting of Members, three area men were elected to the board of trustees. Pictured (l-r) are Joe Voss of Carlyle, Steve Kalmer of New Baden and Cary Dickinson of Hoffman.*



*Clinton County Electric's board of trustees, president and general counsel gathered together to conduct the 81st Annual Meeting of Members.*

from 3.32 to 3.63 cents per kilowatt hour and the wholesale demand rate increased from \$18.67 to \$19 per kilowatt. This resulted in an overall increase in wholesale power costs of \$588,000.

“As noted in the January and February issues of Illinois Country Living, based on the results of the latest cost of service study, the board approved a \$600,000 rate increase effective with bills to be received in April,” he said. “For residential accounts, that means an increase in the system delivery charge from \$49 to \$52, a decrease in power supplier charge from 3.8 to 3.63 cents per kilowatt hour and an increase in the capacity energy charge from 5.54 to 5.83 cents.”

President Kroeger is hopeful for stable wholesale power costs for the next few years and doesn't anticipate any significant changes in the fixed

expenses related to maintaining the distribution system. He also assured the membership, “Despite the incredible amount of regulations and obstacles our industry faces, the board and management of Clinton County Electric remain committed to keeping rates fair and reasonable while maintaining reliable service and financial stability.”

After talking in depth about the programs in place to maintain high reliability standards, President Kroeger turned his focus to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). Kroeger reported that the installation of an AMI system is complete and came in under budget. The AMI system provides improved efficiency and reliability across the electric system and improves service. The cooperative is now able to do monthly meter readings, outage notification and management and

is working to integrate AMI with its SmartHub app to give member-owners the ability to view daily and hourly electric consumption.

Kroeger concluded his address to the membership by mentioning a few member service end use programs. Effective with the August 2018 electric consumption, members with a geothermal system or high efficiency air to air heat pump received a \$7.50 monthly bill credit. He also encouraged anyone thinking about installing a solar array to contact the office before doing so. The final thing he touched on was CCEC transitioning to LED as the only outdoor lighting option available to the members.

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

**Continued on 20d ▶**

## Annual Meeting continued from 20c

Kroeger then gave an update concerning the employees of Clinton County Electric. Jacob Haselhorst, Justin Hubert and Carrie Trame all completed five years of dedicated service. Ron Deien was recognized for 10 and Ralph Kuhl 20 years of dedicated service.

The meeting drew to a close with Kroeger giving an update on the trustees. Kevin Kampwerth was honored for completing 20 years of dedicated service to the membership.

There being no further business to come before the 81st Annual Meeting of Members of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., upon motion by Ron Becker, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Kampwerth.

Following adjournment, four cash prizes were awarded. The winners were: Gary Rosen, \$100; Dian Langenhorst, \$50; Wayne Winkeler, \$50; and Tom Beckmann, \$50.

The meeting concluded at 8:31 p.m.



*Chairman of the board Kevin Kampwerth (right) received a plaque from President/COO Bob Kroeger (left) for completing 20 years of dedicated service to the membership of Clinton County Electric Cooperative.*

To hear this type of information first hand, collect attendance prizes and to have the opportunity to win cash prizes, consider attending next

year's annual meeting. As a member, you are an owner of this cooperative and deserve to be well-informed about all activities.



## Mark your calendar

The cooperative office will be CLOSED on Monday, May 27, 2019 in observance of Memorial Day and Thursday, July 4, 2018 in observance of Independence Day.