Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Published by Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. • cceci@cceci.com • www.cceci.com

By the community, for the community

October is National Co-op Month

By Anne Prince, NRECA

When you think of October, pumpkins, Halloween and beautiful fall foliage naturally come to mind. But October is notable for another reason – it's National Co-op Month! This is the time of year when cooperatives across the country, including Clinton County Electric Cooperative, celebrate who we are and more importantly, the members we serve.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. When the market declines to offer a product or service, or does so at a very high price, co-ops intervene to fill the need.

Similar to how Clinton County Electric Cooperative was built by members who came together to bring electricity to our community, cooperatives are conveners for the common good. Your electric co-op exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are locally governed. Clinton County Electric's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected to the position by neighbors like you.

We know our members (that's you!) have a valuable perspective. That's why we are continually seeking your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you.

Another feature that sets our co-op apart from a traditional utility is one of our core principles, "Concern for Community." We offer grants to educators at the local schools and scholarships to graduating high school seniors. We also participate in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C. for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action.

Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

We hope you will think of Clinton County Electric Cooperative as more than your energy provider, but instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

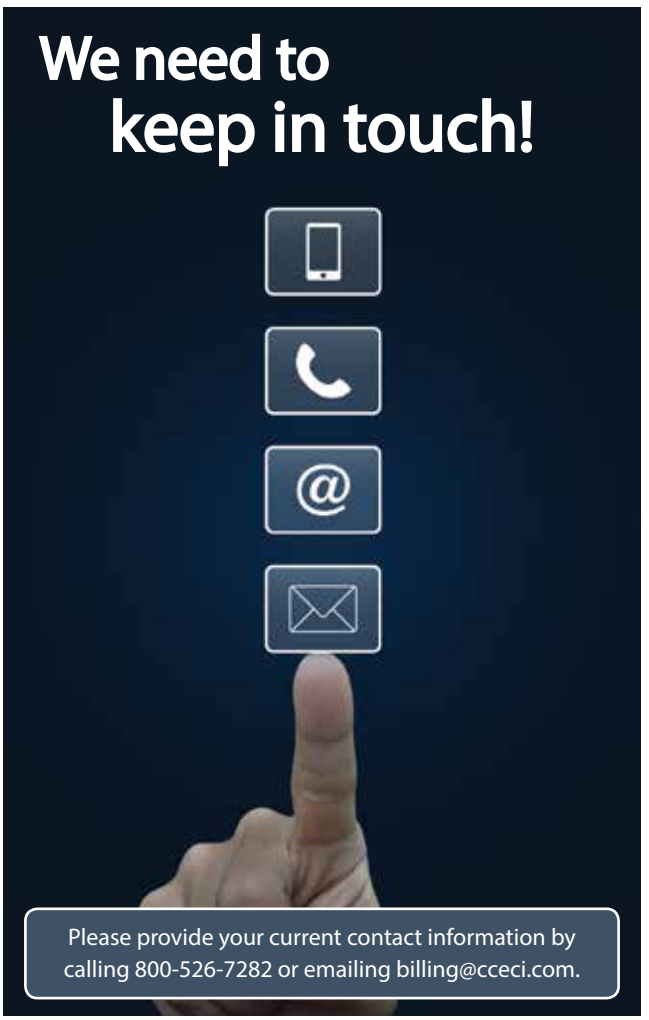
We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you – because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community.

We'll miss you, Al

On Jan. 11, 1988, Al Deiters was hired as an apprentice lineman for Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC). Al spent the first part of his career at CCEC working on the underground and overhead crews. He was promoted to leadman in 2008 and continued to provide great service work to the membership, until his well deserved retirement this month.

On Sept. 30, 2019, Al will start his retirement. Over the past 31 years, Al built relationships not only with his CCEC co-workers, but also with the cooperative members. According to Al, getting to meet so many of the friendly members was one of the best parts of his job.

Al plans to relax during his retirement by fishing, hunting and spending time with his family. He also hopes to finish all the little projects he has been putting off for the past 31 years. Good luck in retirement, Al, from all of your family and friends at Clinton County Electric Cooperative.



Closure notices:

In observance of Veterans Day, the office will be closed on Monday, November 11, 2019.

In observance of Thanksgiving, the office will be closed on Thursday, November 28, 2019 and Friday, November 29, 2019.

Attention Teachers & Local School Administrators!

Apply for your 2019-2020 Touchstone Energy® Classroom Empowerment Grants

Does your school or classroom need new materials?
Can your students benefit from new programs and educational resources?

Clinton County Electric Cooperative is again coordinating our grant program with Touchstone Energy for our local private and public Pre-K-12 teachers and administrators. Eight grants of $500 will be provided for innovative, unfunded projects or materials. Qualifying projects are those that improve the learning environment or increase educational resources for the school.

Grant applications are due by **November 4, 2019**. Grant awards will be announced on **December 9, 2019**. An objective panel of judges will determine which projects will be awarded the grants. For grant applications and guidelines, please visit our website at www.cceci.com or contact Carrie Trame at 1-800-526-7282.

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Considering Solar?
Call us first!

As interest in "green" energy and ways to save money on utility bills continue to grow, some cooperative members may be considering the installation of a solar array.

Since these types of systems have the capability of returning electricity back to the electric grid, there are some major safety considerations to sort through before a system is installed.

Before deciding to buy a solar array, examine the economics to determine if such a system will lower your monthly electricity costs. If you do decide to install a solar array, contact our office as early as possible in the process.

A CCEC representative will provide information on our interconnection process and policies, as well as answer any questions you may have. That way, you and your installer will have the information needed as you progress with your system.

For more information on CCEC policies and requirements, please contact our office Monday through Friday, between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 800-526-7282.

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