Clinton County Connection

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Minutes from the 81st Annual Meeting of Members

The 81st Annual Meeting of Members of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CCEC) was held at the Central Community High School, 7740 Old US Hwy 50, Breese, Illinois on Thursday, March 21, 2019.

The meeting was called to order by Kevin Kampwerth, 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 Kampwerth reported there was a quorum present.

The invocation was given by Steve Kalmer, Vice Chairman of the board.

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

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

Chairman Kampwerth then introduced the Clinton County Electric Board of Trustees, Advisory Board, and special guests including Don Gulley, President/CEO of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) and Paul Furtak, Vice President of Risk and Strategic Planning for SIPC. Employees of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative who were present included: Chris Reynolds, Manager of Creative Services; Paul Dow, Coordinator of Video Productions; Nick Reitz, Vice-President of Government Relations; and Dan Gerard, Chief Technology Officer.

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 the receipt of mailing from the U.S. Postal Service.

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 focused on reliability and said, "Our goal is to have no more than 1 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 hours, 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 February 26, 2019 regular meeting of the board of trustees.

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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 kilowatts and is holding steady at 6,009 meters. This represents less than 1 percent growth since 2015.

Paul Furtak, Vice President of Risk & Strategic Planning at SIPC, the wholesale power source 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 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 also 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 safety, the number one priority at Clinton County Electric. 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." President 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 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 remains 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). He 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 retrieve 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 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.

President 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 for 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 at 8:31 p.m.

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

2020 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 March 2020, 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 19-26, 2020 for an all-expense paid tour. See our January 2020 issue for more details.

2020 Clinton County Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

Thursday, March 19, 2020
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	DEC	JAN
Tue 24, Wed 25	Tue 31	Wed 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

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