Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Divided but united

The COVID-19 virus changed life as we know it in the blink of an eye. Life at Clinton County Electric Cooperative was no exception. Within a few short days, CCEC management and the board of trustees had to implement big changes in a small amount of time.

With the uncertainty of the COVID-19 virus, the first big decision made was postponing the annual meeting set to take place on March 19, 2020. We then closed our lobby to all walk-in traffic on March 16. A few days later, all outside personnel started working remotely, with the underground crew reporting to the Old State substation and the overhead crew to the pole yard. The remaining two outside employees started taking their trucks home with them daily. Later in March, CCEC's engineer and one member service representative started working from home. All remaining office staff continued reporting to the office. Masks, sanitizer and gloves were provided for all employees.

All the changes taking place posed a few challenges in the beginning. However, just like everyone else, we quickly figured out the workings of our "new normal."

The swift actions taken by CCEC management and board of trustees are insuring the health and well-being of our membership, as well as our employees. With the two line crews separated and some office personnel working from their homes, CCEC is confident that even though we are divided, we stand united in continuing to provide safe, reliable service to the member-owners of Clinton County Electric Cooperative.

At the time of publication, decisions had not yet been made on rescheduling the annual meeting, nor was a date determined to bring employees back to the office or reopen the lobby. Please refer to our website www.cceci.com and our Facebook page for updates.

Since March, the underground crew has been starting and ending their days at the Old State substation to do their part in preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Even amid a pandemic, CCEC remains committed to keeping your lights on.

Scholarships awarded

Clinton County Electric Cooperative proudly offers two $500 scholarships to senior students from Carlyle, Central, Christ Our Rock, Mascoutah, Mater Dei and Wesclin High Schools. The following students, whose primary residence is served by CCEC, were awarded $500 scholarships this past May:

Carlyle High School:
- Mackenzie Ebmeyer, daughter of Jennifer Morence
- Zack Barnes, son of Hallie and Kim Barnes

Central High School:
- Jenna Hemker, daughter of Thomas and Sandy Hemker
- Lexie Bergmann, daughter of Jason and Kristy Bergmann

Mascoutah High School:
- Christina Lanter, daughter of Allen and Cheryl Lanter
- Benjamin Kordick, son of Thomas and Jennifer Kordick

Mater Dei Catholic High School:
- Brandon Huelsmann, son of Vernon and Janice Huelsmann
- Holly Dumstorff, daughter of Brian and Lisa Dumstorff

Wesclin High School:
- McKenna Daiber, daughter of John and Jeneana Daiber
- Lauren Rakers, daughter of Darrin and Gina Rakers

Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School:
- Caitlynn Smith, daughter of James and Dawn Smith

Congratulations to all of the 2020 CCEC scholarship recipients.

Office closure notice

The cooperative office will be closed Friday, July 3, 2020 in observance of Independence Day and Monday, September 7, 2020 in observance of Labor Day. 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.

Concern for community

If you have attended a Clinton County Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting in the past couple of years, you have probably heard about some, if not all, of the 7 Cooperative Principles: Voluntary and Open Membership; Democratic Member Control; Members' Economic Participation; Autonomy and Independence; Education, Training and Information; Cooperation Among Cooperatives; and Concern for Community.

Cooperatives around the world operate according to these same set of core principles and values. Understanding these principles is imperative to knowing the difference between a cooperative and an investor-owned utility. That is why we are taking this opportunity to explain them all, one month at a time.

This month we feature "Concern for Community." This principle states: *Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership.*

On an annual basis, CCEC awards $4,000 through the Touchstone Energy Teacher's Grant program. We send high school sophomores and juniors, whose parents reside on our lines, to Springfield to understand more about the inner workings of our government. From there we pay for two lucky winners to participate in an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Springfield and Washington trips were canceled. CCEC also awards $8,000 in scholarships to seniors whose parents reside on our lines and attend area high schools or Kaskaskia College.

All these programs set us apart from Investor Owned Utilities, as well as demonstrates our dedication to sustain the development of CCEC's members, their children and the community we serve.

Find us next month and we will dive into another Cooperative Principle.

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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