



Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

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CCEC's 2020 Annual Meeting Canceled

At the June 30, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, the board voted to cancel Clinton County Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting, originally scheduled for March 19, 2020, due to COVID-19. Therefore, we are taking this opportunity to share some of the information that would've been presented that evening with a recap of 2019.

CCEC 2019 Recap

Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) experienced many great accomplishments in 2019. First and foremost, the employees of CCEC were once again able to make it through another year without a lost time accident. The last lost time accident was back on April 15, 2009, more than 10 years ago.

Another 2019 accomplishment is CCEC's commitment to reliability. Our goal is to have no more than 1 hour of outage per member, per year. In 2019, CCEC finished at 3.98 member outage hours. The miss was due to mechanical failure on Ameren's side of things. We rely on Ameren to get your power from our supplier, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) in Marion, to our substations. So, when Ameren transmission lines fail and cause CCEC members to be without power, that is a factor beyond our control. Unfortunately, that was the case for not meeting our 1 hour per member, per year goal in 2019.

During 2019, CCEC invested a little more than \$222,000 in right-of-way maintenance, having focused our tree trimming efforts in the areas

served by our Trenton, Keyesport and Shattuc I substations. Over the last 12 years, we have replaced approximately 1,950 poles and treated approximately 1,300 poles through our pole testing and treatment program. In 2019, the cost of the pole inspection and treatment program was about \$50,000 plus an additional \$121,000 to replace 90 poles. 2019 saw poles tested and treated that were served by our Mascoutah Substation. Also in 2019, we rebuilt approximately 15 miles of line located primarily in the Mascoutah and Beckemeyer areas at a cost of about \$600,000.

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, all margins (otherwise known as profits) for the year end get allocated to the membership. If there are no margins left, no allocations for that year will be made. However, all allocated margins are eventually returned to the membership in the form of a capital credit check.

The Clinton County Electric board of trustees takes pride in returning patronage to the membership. At the regular meeting of the board of trustees on Dec. 23, 2019, the board approved a payout of \$300,000

in general retirements and \$60,000 in estate retirements. This payout is approximately \$75,000 more than was paid out in the previous year and was approved in hopes of staying on a 25-year retirement cycle. This payout was paid to the CCEC members of 1993 and 1994.

Besides the general retirement of capital credits, the board also approved a partial retirement of the 2019 margins in the amount of \$667,000. This was paid to the CCEC members of 2019 in the form of a one-time bill credit seen on your January 2020 electric bill labeled "Reduction of 2019 Margins." There were two components that factored into the decision to return some of CCEC's 2019 margins. First, the combination of higher than budget revenues and reduced costs resulted in Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, CCEC's wholesale power provider, returning \$417,000 of their 2019 margins to Clinton County Electric. The second component that factored into the decision to return a portion of the 2019 margins was due to a positive year at Clinton County Electric. Similar to SIPC, we sold

Continued on 20B ▶

2019 Recap continued from 20A

more kilowatt hours to our members here at Clinton County Electric than we had budgeted, resulting in higher than budgeted revenues. We were also able to control our operation and maintenance expenses. We felt it would be prudent to return these dollars to the membership this year instead of retaining them for future patronage retirements.

Another area we focused quite heavily on over the past few years was “fair and reasonable” rates. We have been working to get our fixed charges in line with the actual costs to provide electric service to your home or place of business. After performing a couple of different rate studies over the years, it would appear we are closer than ever to recovering the fixed cost of providing electricity to the members through a fixed System Delivery Charge of \$52.

As a result of SIPC lowering their demand charge by 4 percent, Clinton County Electric’s purchased power

costs will be reduced by an estimated \$247,000 in 2020. At the December 2019 board meeting, the board of trustee’s approved management’s recommendation of implementing a negative \$1.77 per 1,000 kwh Power Cost Adjustment for the remainder of 2020. The PCA was reflected on the member’s bill received in February and will remain in place until January 2021.

For the third year in a row, in 2019, CCEC was able to exhibit “Cooperation among Cooperatives,” one of the 7 Cooperative Principles, by sending a couple of our linemen to aid those who faced the wrath of Mother Nature. Back in September, we sent our guys to Peace River Electric Cooperative in Wauchula, Fla. When Hurricane Dorian changed paths, so did our guys. After a short stay in Florida, our guys were once again headed to South River EMC in Dunn, N.C. CCEC aided South River EMC back in 2018 as well.

Also in 2019, CCEC sponsored the live line demonstration at Earth Day in April, the Clinton County Fair in July and Ag Safety Day in September. The live line demonstration does a great job demonstrating the hazards of contact with power lines and presents practical safety tips for avoiding dangerous situations.

All in all, 2019 was a good year for CCEC. One final thing as this recap comes to an end, back in September 2019, we gave our website a whole new look. Check it out at www.cceci.com and while you are there, log into SmartHub and explore your consumption history. You now have that information at your fingertips and definitely don’t forget to like us on Facebook.

With the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19 and the publication deadlines, we are doing our best to get information to the membership as quickly as we can.



**In observance of
Veterans Day, the office will
be closed on Wednesday,
November 11, 2020**



**In observance of
Thanksgiving, the office
will be closed on Thursday,
November 26, 2020 and
Friday, November 27, 2020.**

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.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Clothes dryers make up a large portion of your appliance energy consumption. Clean the lint filter after each cycle, and scrub the filter with a toothbrush once a month to remove film and increase air circulation.



Source: energy.gov

Attention Educators and Administrators!

Have an educational project you'd like funded?

\$4,000 available through Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants



Enter Touchstone Energy®'s Classroom Empowerment Grant Competition and your submission could win a \$500 grant for classroom and education enhancement projects!

Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants totaling \$4,000 are being funded by Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) for the 2020-2021 school year. For more information about the grant program, or to get an application, please contact your school superintendent or Carrie Trame at Trame@cceci.com.



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Grant applications will need to include the following information:

1. A description of the project and what it will accomplish
2. The estimated cost of the project
3. An explanation of why outside funds are necessary to complete the project
4. Whether other funding options have been pursued, and if so, how
5. When project will be completed
6. The number of people affected by the project
7. If the project's goals are measurable, and how
8. How the project ties in Touchstone Energy's four core values of Integrity, Accountability, Innovation and Commitment to Community
9. Photos and supporting data are optional. Grant applications must be received at CCEC by November 6, 2020. Entries will be evaluated by an impartial panel of judges. Awards will be announced on December 7, 2020.

Last year's winners:

- **\$500 - All Saints Academy**
Submitting educator: pre-k teacher Michelle Toennies
- **\$1,000 - Germantown Elementary**
Submitting educators: kindergarten teacher Cheri Markwell and fourth grade teacher Margie Koopmann
- **\$500 - Mater Dei Catholic High School**
Submitting educator: English teacher Pam Zurliene
- **\$500 - New Baden Elementary**
Submitting educator: special education teacher Meg Billhartz
- **\$500 - St. Rose Elementary**
Submitting educator: kindergarten teacher Laura Wesselmann
- **\$1,000 - Wesclin High School**
Submitting educators: teacher Kristen Oster and Spanish teacher Jon Bagby

Education, Training and Information

Education, Training and Information is probably the most self-explanatory of all the 7 Cooperative Principles. It states:

Education and training for members, elected representatives (directors/trustees), CEOs and employees help them effectively contribute to the development of their cooperatives. Communications about the nature and benefits of cooperatives, particularly with the general public and opinion leaders, helps boost cooperative understanding.

Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) strives to educate, train and inform not only the members, but also the members' children. Every year we host an Annual Meeting of the Membership and spend a couple of hours recapping the previous year. We also keep members educated and informed through the monthly publications in the Illinois Country Living magazine. There you can find information about all the programs offered to CCEC members, safety tips, energy efficiency tips, any changes that may affect the membership and so much more. For more real-time information, visit

our website www.cceci.com and our Facebook page.

CCEC sends high school sophomores and juniors, whose parents or legal guardians reside on our lines, to Springfield for "Youth Day." From there a couple lucky students continue to educate themselves about cooperatives in Washington, D.C. for the annual "Youth Tour." On the trip to D.C., the students form their own cooperative, elect a board who, in turn, hires a chief executive officer. Students get an up-close and personal look at how cooperatives operate while enjoying the magnificent sites of D.C.

CCEC is also extremely dedicated to educating and training all employees. Regulator school, metering school, transformer school, trenching/shoring certification and forestry school are trainings regularly attended by CCEC's line personnel. All apprentice linemen must complete several classes before they are able to be classified as journeymen. There are many sessions attended by office personnel as well. All these sessions are sponsored by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC). Since they too operate according to the 7 Cooperative Principles, they know just

how vital the Education, Training and Information Principle is to the success of all cooperatives.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) is responsible for educating, training and informing CCEC's board of trustees and CEO. NRECA hosts various conferences and meetings around the country specifically designed to help enhance electric cooperatives' service to their members. Covering a broad array of current topics and issues, these events include national and regional meetings, as well as professional conferences for directors, executives and staff. They provide the same kind of support for the board and CEO as the AIEC provides for the employees.

CCEC, along with the AIEC and the NRECA, feels very strongly about keeping all the people in the cooperative family educated, trained and informed. It is a crucial part of achieving our mission statement: *Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. exists to provide safe and reliable services to benefit our members owners.* Just one more principle that makes cooperatives exceptional!

