



UPDATE

2021 Annual Meeting update

With all the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the details surrounding the 2021 annual meeting, originally set to be held on March 18, 2021, are still undetermined. We are exploring several options for the meeting. Once the specifics are determined, we will publish them in the Illinois Country Living center section and share the information on social media. The nomination procedure for those interested in running for a spot on the board is published on page 20B.

Voluntary and Open Membership/ Democratic Member Control

“Voluntary and Open Membership” and “Democratic Member Control” are two cooperative principles that go hand-in-hand. Voluntary and Open Membership states:

Membership in a cooperative is open to all persons who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender or economic circumstances.

Once a membership is obtained, that member is encouraged to attend the Clinton County Electric Cooperative’s (CCEC) Annual Meeting of the Members typically held on the third Thursday in March. There, the members can receive updates on business matters and get to know the people who run the cooperative.

The board of trustees run the cooperative. The membership chooses the board by way of a principle known as Democratic Member Control. This principle states:

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Elected representatives, trustees, are elected from among the membership and are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote); cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

Basically, the members vote for the trustees they want to represent them on a board that governs the cooperative. The annual meeting also serves as the forum for electing the trustees.

Although the annual meeting may look a little different in 2021, we encourage all who belong to CCEC’s voluntary and open membership to attend and exercise their democratic member control.

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 vot-

ing 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.

Stay safe going over the river and through the woods

The holiday season is a busy time of year for many of us. Along with putting out decorations and baking cookies, we often spend more time in our cars than usual – shopping for presents, traveling to family gatherings or attending holiday events. However, all that time in the car can also mean facing extreme weather conditions that can make safe driving difficult.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, winter weather conditions such as snow, sleet and slush cause more than 550,000 traffic accidents each year, leading to approximately 138,000 injuries and 1,700 fatalities.

Along with risk of injury, possible damage to your vehicle, and plain inconvenience, collisions may also involve downed power lines or other electrical hazards. Unfortunately, when this happens, it adds another significant danger to the mix that can cause severe shock, burns or electrocution. Knowing what to do in this situation can save lives.

If you are in an accident involving a downed power line:

- Call 9-1-1 and tell the dispatcher a downed power line or other electrical equipment is involved in a collision. Co-op personnel will be dispatched to the scene to deenergize the power.
- Put your window down and alert others not to approach the scene. They could be shocked or electrocuted if they walk or run over the energized area or touch anything that is energized.
- Never attempt to drive over a power line or through water, snow or other debris that could be

hiding one. There is no way to tell if a power line is energized, even if it is not sparking or buzzing.

- Do not exit the vehicle UNLESS the vehicle is on fire or you see smoke. The vehicle acts as an insulator that keeps you safe from stray electricity.
- If you MUST exit the vehicle, cross your arms across your chest, put your feet together, and make a clean jump from the vehicle. Then hop with feet together as far as you can — at least 50 feet away. Once a power line is in contact with a car or truck, the ground or other objects, it energizes the area. The electrical current spreads to the vehicle and ground, and it ripples out. Each “ring” of the ripple represents a different voltage. Stepping from one voltage to the next can cause your body to become a path for electricity and electrocute you.
- If a power line is inside the vehicle due to damage or an open window, stay in the vehicle. DO NOT touch or try to move the wire. DO NOT attempt to use other objects to move it.
- If your vehicle collides with a pad-mounted transformer, which houses electrical equipment connected to underground power lines, the same safety precautions apply.

Keep your family safe while on the road this holiday season! For more information about safety around electricity, go to SafeElectricity.org.



Be a Smart Cookie Holiday Baking Tips

If you're planning to cook feasts or create treats this holiday season, follow these basic safety tips:

Test Smoke Detectors

Make sure they're working properly



Watch Your Sleeves

This is not a good time for loose sleeves

Put a Lid on it

Have lids handy in case of a grease fire



Old Things Don't Become New
Don't use appliances in disrepair

How the Cookie Crumbles

Consider having a fire extinguisher on hand



Where There's Heat There Could Be Fire

Keep flammables such as pot holders away from the stove

Not Child's Play

Keep children and pets away from cooking areas



Keeping Time

Use a timer when the oven or stove is on

Stay With it

Don't leave the room if you are broiling, frying or simmering food



Pay Attention

Take a nap after the feast





2021 Youth Day and Youth Tour

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Illinois cooperatives will not be participating in Youth Tour 2021. The safety of the students was top priority when making this decision. Youth Day will be a digital event in 2021. More details will be shared as soon as they are available.

Holiday Closings

In observance of the following holidays, the cooperative office will be closed:

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day – Thursday, December 24 & Friday, December 25
New Year's Eve & New Year's Day – Thursday, December 31 & Friday, January 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