Clinton County Connection

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Keeping the lights on

What does a lineworker do?

While it takes each employee across all departments to keep operations running smoothly at Clinton County Electric Cooperative, one of the more visible jobs is that of a lineworker. You may see one of ours working 35 feet (or more) overhead or maintaining lines at ground level.

We entrust your safety to our lineworkers, so they hold a very important job. We also rely on their expertise to power our world.

On any given day or night, and in all kinds of weather conditions, these specialized workers install and maintain overhead and underground electrical systems. Components of these systems include power lines, transformers, fuses, insulators, and other related equipment.

Electrical lineworkers are specially trained to:

- Climb poles to service power lines in areas inaccessible by trucks.
- Stand in an elevated bucket to assess and repair overhead lines.
- Install poles, overhead lines and other equipment.
- Work on both energized and deenergized lines.
- Install and service underground lines.

Protective clothing is required to shield lineworkers since they work around high voltages. Collectively, gear components can weigh up to 45 pounds.

Safety comes first

Lineworkers must commit to safety above all else. They spend numerous hours in safety trainings each year and must understand and apply crucial safety regulations.

Students learning lineworker skills at the AIEC Hot Line School Grounds.

Mark your calendars

Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. will host the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Membership on Thursday, August 19, 2021.

Due to the uncertainties still surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the exact details of the meeting have not yet been determined.

Once the specifics are decided, we will publish them in the Illinois Country Living magazine, as well as on our website and Facebook page. The nomination procedure for those interested in running for a spot on the board is published on page 20B.

In observance of Memorial Day, the office will be closed Monday, May 31, 2021.

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.

Improving your yard?

Know what's above and below before you start

When the temperature warms to signal the arrival of spring, many begin planning improvements to our outdoor spaces. This could include adding or maintaining a swimming pool, building a deck, adding a patio or assembling play equipment. However, be sure to plan for safety prior to any yard improvement project.

Power line awareness

Being aware of power line locations near your home is vital for your and your family's safety. Always look up and around for power lines, recognizing that electricity can jump or transfer even without direct contact, before starting any outdoor project. Also know what's below before starting any digging job.

Here are tips to keep in mind while working in your yard:

- Assume power lines are always energized and keep at least 10 feet between a power line and you or any item you are holding.
- Perform a hazard assessment of the work area, noting all power line locations.

- Call 8-1-1 or your state's underground utility locator service to mark underground utilities as part of planning and before any digging. The service is free.
  - Utility locators do not mark private lines, however. Private underground lines—typically installed by the homeowner or a contractor—include, but are not limited to, irrigation or septic system lines, lines servicing outbuildings, lines between the meter and your home, or lines to other outdoor items like grills or hot tubs.
  - Private lines need to be marked by an independent locating service.
- Once underground utilities are marked, the 8-1-1 "Call Before You Dig" service recommends the area within 18 to 24 inches of either side of the marked lines be dug by hand with a fiberglass-handled shovel, not by machine.
- Don't install tree houses, playsets, pools or decks, and any associated structures within 25 feet of a power line. Consider the height and reach of play equipment (including the arc of a swing) and all deck and pool structures in relation to power lines.
- Educate children about power line safety. Teach them to never touch a power line or get too close to one—either directly or with a toy. This is especially important if they climb trees, fly kites or use remote control devices, such as drones.
- Use caution when moving ladders and operating long-handled tools, such as pool skimmers, around trees and power lines.
- Also look up and around for power lines when you are elevated, whether it be on a ladder, a boom lift, scaffolding or your roof.
- When planting and trimming trees, keep in mind that specialized tree trimming experts certified by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in utility clearance are the only persons legally allowed to trim within 10 feet of power lines.

Contact the office Monday through Friday, between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 800-526-7282 with questions about power line clearance recommendations concerning decks, pools and play structures in your yard. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Did you know?

Phone, cable TV and internet providers must request a Joint Use Agreement from CCEC before attaching their equipment to our electric poles. However, those agreements do not grant them easement on your property. The telecommunications providers working in any given area must request easement from the landowner prior to starting a job.

Since there is significant focus on extending telecommunication services to rural areas, we wanted to remind CCEC members of the guidelines surrounding this process. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office Monday through Friday, between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 800-526-7282.

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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Electric Cooperative, Inc.
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