Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Mark your calendar!

Clinton County Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting of the Membership will be held on **Thursday, Aug. 15, 2024,** at Central Community High School in Breese, Ill. Registration will begin at 6:30 p.m., and the business meeting, including trustee elections, will begin at 7:30 p.m. The nomination procedure for those interested in running for a position on the board can be found on page 18D.

Postal delays

With postal delays becoming more and more prevalent, we are encouraging our members to explore the following bill pay options to guarantee your payment is received on time and to avoid late fees:

- **Electronic funds transfer** — We can automatically draft your bill amount from your checking account on the 25th of every month.
- **Recurring credit/debit card** — We can automatically charge a credit/debit card on the 25th of every month.
- **Phone payments** — Call and make a payment with a debit/credit card or check using our automated system.
- **Online** — Visit us online at www.cceci.com and use the pay-now option to pay with a debit/credit card or check. The SmartHub link or app allows you to not only make payments but also to see your consumption, billing and payment history.
- **24-hour drop box** — Located at the little light pole outside the front door of our building located at 475 N. Main St. in Breese. It is secure and checked daily.

There are no additional charges for any of the above payment options. For more details on how to utilize any of the alternate bill pay options, check out the back of your monthly bill or call the office Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 800-526-7282.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that you do not need a Facebook account to view the information we post?

Simply go to our website at www.cceci.com and scroll down until you see our Facebook information. There, you can look through our posts without having to log into an actual Facebook account.

Earth Day demonstration

On April 19, 2024, CCEC Foreman Mike Faust and Journeyman Lineman Jacob Haselhorst conducted a live line demonstration for more than 350 local students at Carlyle Lake in honor of Earth Day. They spent the day educating the county's middle school students about the danger associated with live power lines. If you are interested in hosting a live line demonstration, please contact our office Monday through Friday, between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m., at 800-526-7282.

SIGNS OF AN ENERGY SCAM

High-Pressure Tactics

Scammers will pressure you, creating a sense of urgency. Claims that your power will be disconnected without immediate payment are common with utility scams.

Sketchy Payment Methods

Scammers may ask for unusual payment methods like gift cards or cryptocurrency. In these cases, it's likely a scam.

Dodgy Communication

Whether an email, text message or letter, utility scams typically include poor grammar, spelling errors or unusual email addresses. These are common warning signs of a scam.

If you feel a shock, swim away from the dock

"If you feel a shock, swim away from the dock," is a good thing to remember when swimming. Knowing what to do if water becomes electrified can help swimmers avoid an invisible hazard called electric shock drowning (ESD).

Outdated wiring and a lack of proper safety equipment on boats and docks can cause situations where electricity seeps or leaks into the water. It is a particularly dangerous hazard because it is impossible to tell by looking if water is energized. According to the Electric Shock Drowning Prevention Association, between 10 and 15 milliamps, which is just 1/50 the wattage of a 60-watt light bulb, can cause drowning. The association also reports that most ESD deaths have occurred in public and private marinas and docks.

Safe Electricity recommends that individuals do not swim around docks with electrical equipment or boats plugged into shore power. If you are in the water and feel electric current, shout to let others know, try to stay upright, tuck your legs up to make yourself smaller, and swim away from anything that could be energized. Do not swim to boat or dock ladders to get out.

If you see someone who you suspect is getting shocked, do not immediately jump in to save them. Throw them a float, turn off the shore power connection or unplug shore power cords. Try to eliminate the source of electricity as quickly as possible; then call 911 for help.

Safe Electricity, along with the American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers/National Electrical Contractors Association, recommends adhering to these steps in order to enhance water recreation safety and accident prevention:

- All electrical installations and maintenance should be performed by a professional electrical contractor familiar with marine codes and standards and inspected at least once a year.
- Docks should have GFCI breakers on the circuits feeding electricity to the dock.
- The metal frame of docks should be bonded to connect all metal parts to the alternating current (AC) safety ground at the power source.
- Neighboring docks can also present a shock hazard. Make your neighbors aware of the need for safety inspections and maintenance. Marinas should comply with NFPA and NEC codes.
- Have your boat's electrical system checked at least once a year. Boats should also be checked when something is added to or removed from their systems.
- Boats with AC systems should have isolation transformers or equipment leakage circuit interrupter (ELCI) protection, comply with ABYC standards and be serviced by an ABYC Certified Technician.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

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 St., Breese, IL 62230, 618-526-7282.