Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Published by Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. • cceci@cceci.com • www.cceci.com

11 things you might not know about power restoration

Bob Kroeger,
President/COO

Have you ever watched a video or TV show where a person is cooking a meal, then suddenly, they snap their fingers, and the meal is plated and ready to eat? That's called a jump cut.

While we wish we could "jump cut" from a power outage to power restoration, it can often take a lot more effort and people to make it happen.

As the President/COO of Clinton County Electric (CCEC), I'm accustomed to members' questions about power outages and why it can take time to get the lights back on. Given our reliance on electricity, there's simply never a good time to be without it.

This month, I'd like to shed light on our restoration process to help our members understand what may be happening behind the scenes. Here are 11 things you might not know about restoration:

1. **We need you.** When your power goes out, it might be just at your home or a small section of a neighborhood. There is a chance we may not know about it, and no one has reported it. We rely on you to let us know if your power is out.
2. **Our employees might be affected, too.** Because CCEC is a local electric cooperative owned by the members we serve, our employees are local, too. They are your neighbors, friends and familiar community volunteers. When you're without power, our people might be, too.
3. **It's a team effort.** Every one of CCEC's employees are working to get your power restored as soon as possible. Our member services representatives are taking your calls, engineers and field staff are surveying damage, operations personnel are organizing crews, and communicators are keeping everyone informed of progress or potential dangers. When your power goes out, we all work together as quickly and safely as possible to get you back to normal.
4. **We assess the situation first.** Every outage is different, and we don't know how dangerous it is or what equipment might need to be replaced. When responding to outages, we first need to see what happened, then figure out what materials we need and a plan for how to fix the problem(s) without compromising electric flow for the rest of our members.
5. **When we call in backup.** Depending on the number of outages and the damage, we may need to call in back up. This could include having our office personnel stay to keep answering our members' calls. This is helpful as they get the most up to date information the quickest, in turn, able to get that information to our members. If the damage and outages are significant, we could call in help from a neighboring cooperative. This is one of the cooperative principles – cooperation among cooperatives.
6. **Restoration is normally prioritized by the largest number of members we can get back on in the shortest amount of time.** Our crews focus on responding first to public safety issues and critical services like hospitals. Then we complete work that impacts the largest number of people first.
7. **Our employees face many dangers.** Besides working around high voltage electricity, our crews are on alert for wild animals, weather elements, falling trees and fast-moving cars. (If you ever drive past one of our vehicles, please do so slowly.)
8. **Flickering lights are a good thing.** Some folks mistake flickering lights for outages, but these "blinks" are important, because they indicate our equipment worked and prevented a possible outage likely caused by wayward animals or stray tree limbs on the lines.

Continued on 18C ▶

CCCE awards scholarships

Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) 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

- **Matison Stanart**, daughter of Matthew and Traci Stanart
- **Saige Hartman**, daughter of Matthew and Andrea Hartman

Central High School

- **Christopher Richter**, son of Allen and Barbara Richter

Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School

- **Alexa Childress**, daughter of David and Heather Childress
- **Mia Kleiboeker**, daughter of Corey and Annette Kleiboeker

Mascoutah High School

- **Delaney Welker**, daughter of Carl and Leslie Welker
- **Heidi Engelage**, daughter of Christopher and Lynne Engelage

Mater Dei Catholic High School

- **Gabriel Schlimme,** son of John and Angie Schlimme
- **Elyse Strader**, daughter of Jason and Carey Strader

Wesclin High School

- **Colby Buckles**, son of Thomas and Marcy Buckles
- **Alexis Oster**, daughter of Brad and Kristen Oster

Congratulations to all CCEC's 2024 scholarships recipients.

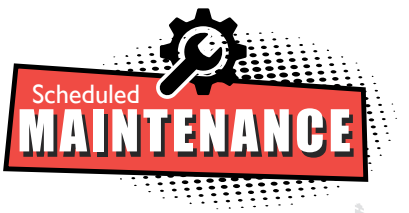
Clinton County Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting of the Membership will be held on **Thursday, Aug. 15, 2024,** at Central Community High School in Breese, Ill. Registration will begin at 6:30 p.m., and the business meeting, including trustee elections, will begin at 7:30 p.m. The nomination procedure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

COMMON CAUSES OF POWER OUTAGES

There is never a good time for the power to go out, but if it happens on a sunny day, you might be left wondering why. Here are the most common causes of a power outage.

High winds, snow and ice can cause tree limbs to fall on power lines. Other weather effects, like wildfires and lightning strikes, can cause major damage to equipment.

Squirrels, birds, snakes and other animals can inadvertently contact power lines, causing short circuits and disruptions to electrical supply.



Occasionally, we plan outages to perform upgrades or repairs to parts of the local grid.

Vehicles can crash into utility poles, bringing down power lines. Construction and excavation work can also result in disruptions to underground lines.

$2,000 Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarship awarded

Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) is proud to announce that Logan Becker of Mater Dei Catholic High School is one of 16 winners of this year's Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship. He is the child of John and Melissa Becker of Breese. Logan competed for the scholarship with 285 other students from across the state. The $2,000 awards are given each year to 16 sons or daughters of electric co-op members, employees or directors. A 17th scholarship is reserved for a student interested in lineworker's college and will be announced at a later date. Logan will be recognized during the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting on Aug. 1, 2024, in Springfield.

Candidates were judged on grade-point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay demonstrating their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

This fall, Logan will attend Kaskaskia Community College. CCEC is honored to have a scholarship recipient and is excited to see how he will represent the community.

To learn more about this scholarship, please contact Carrie Trame at trame@cceci.com.

"Restoration" continued from 18A

9. **You need a backup plan.** We do our best to help those who need it, but if you depend on electricity for life support purposes, you must have a back-up plan — remember, we don't always know how long restoration efforts will take. If you're unsure what to do, call us so we can help you prepare an emergency location.
10. **Our employees have to plan — and eat.** If you ever see our trucks in a restaurant parking lot while your power is out, know that sometimes our employees huddle in a safe, common area to map out their plan for getting your power back on. Also, our crews work long, hard hours during outages and need to take time for meals just like everyone else.
11. **Sometimes it's a waiting game.** Our portion of the power grid is connected to other electric utilities, and we maintain positive relationships with power providers interconnected to our system. If our outage is due to an issue from their feed into our system, we must let them do their repairs and be mindful of what they're going through to fix it.

We do our best to avoid power disruptions, but they are inevitable from time to time. If the lights go out, know that your co-op team is working as quickly and safely as possible to restore power. If you experience an outage, please let us know by calling us at 800-526-7282.

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.

Thank you to all those who participated in the energy consumption survey.

The winner of the $100 bill credit is Shannon Petrea.