Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Clinton County Electric Cooperative

Annual Meeting Recap

The 85th Annual Meeting of Members of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held at the Central Community High School, 7740 Old U.S. Highway 50, Breese, Ill., on Thursday, Aug. 15, 2024.

The meeting was called to order by Tim Hanke, Chairman of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) board, at 7:30 p.m. Chairman Hanke announced that a quorum had been met, and the business meeting continued.

Hanke then recognized the CCEC Board of Trustees, Advisory Board, Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative (AIEC) employees and special guest Southern Illinois Power Cooperative President/CEO Paul Furtak.

Elections and Credentials Committee Member Vernon Mohesky then conducted the 2024 election. Three trustees were up for reelection, including Rob Gerstenecker, John Becker and Kevin Wiegmann. All candidates ran unopposed and were reelected by acclamation to a 3-year term set to expire in 2027.

Hanke returned to the microphone to give the chairman's report. He started his speech by discussing the co-op's focus on the principle of Education, Training and Information. To embody that principle, CCEC performs live line demonstrations, trainings at the Kaskaskia College (KC) Education Center, and promotes employee and board attendance at different classes and meetings. All information and knowledge the board gains from these other entities is brought back to the boardroom and discussed at the following board meeting. He then said, "For the past 20 years, the per diem or reimbursement for trustees attending monthly meetings and/or classes has been $200 per meeting/class. At the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees on July 29, 2024, the board approved increasing the per diem to $300 effective in January 2025."

Hanke then touched on Concern for Community, mentioning the $69,500 in scholarships that

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has been awarded to high school seniors and students at KC over the last 10 years, as well as the $39,000 in teacher grants awarded to area teachers over the past 10 years.

The chairman's report came to a close with Hanke talking about two big outages that occurred in 2024. The first was the storm over the Memorial Day weekend that left over 3,500 people without power. The second occurred when a transformer blew up in the Boulder substation, leaving 300 members without power.

Kevin Wiegmann gave the treasurer's report, stating that the co-op is once again financially sound. He also showed data on revenues, expenses, margins, assets and the effect inflation has on these numbers.

Next, CCEC President/COO Bob Kroeger gave the president's report. He discussed the importance of safety and was proud to report no lost-time accidents have been reported since 2009. He then moved his focus to the reliability of the grid. President Kroeger said, "The latest long-term reliability assessment published by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation determined the region in the middle part of the country is at high risk of energy shortfall under normal conditions." He then went on to explain substantial growth in demand, a changing resource mix, transmission and lack of coordination between the electric industry and regulators and policy makers are all contributing to the possible energy shortfall. He then talked about SIPC and the future of rates stating, "Looking ahead, the new wholesale rate has paved the way for the SIPC staff to begin working on development and implementation of demand response options. Demand response programs are designed to provide an incentive to encourage members to reduce energy usage or provide SIPC the ability to control member load to reduce demand during peak periods. It's exciting that we're getting closer to being able to offer programs to the membership that puts some ability to control energy costs in your hands."

He closed out his portion of the evening by touching on improvements to CCEC's distribution system, 2024 electric rates and the effect inflation has had on those rates, Democratic Member Control and Autonomy and Independence.

The final portion of the meeting was dedicated to recognizing employees and trustees for their years of service: Ahren Lanhauser (20 years), Ralph Kuhl (25 years), new employees Sam Kuhl and Braden Trame. Chairman Hanke also received an award for 25 years of service and Kevin Kampwerth for 25 years of service.

There being no further business to come before the 85th Annual Meeting of Members of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Hanke.

Following adjournment, 1-$100 and 3-$50 cash attendance prizes were given away.

To hear this type of information firsthand, collect attendance prizes and to have the opportunity to win cash prizes, consider attending next year's annual meeting. The actual minutes of this meeting, including more details, will be posted in a future edition of the Illinois County Living magazine. As a member/owner of this cooperative, you deserve to be well-informed about all activities.

Co-ops power communities with purpose

Communities come in all shapes and sizes. Some are based on geographical proximity, some are based on shared interests or hobbies, and some communities can even be found in virtual spaces like social media groups. Regardless of where or how they are formed, communities can bring people together and create a sense of belonging.

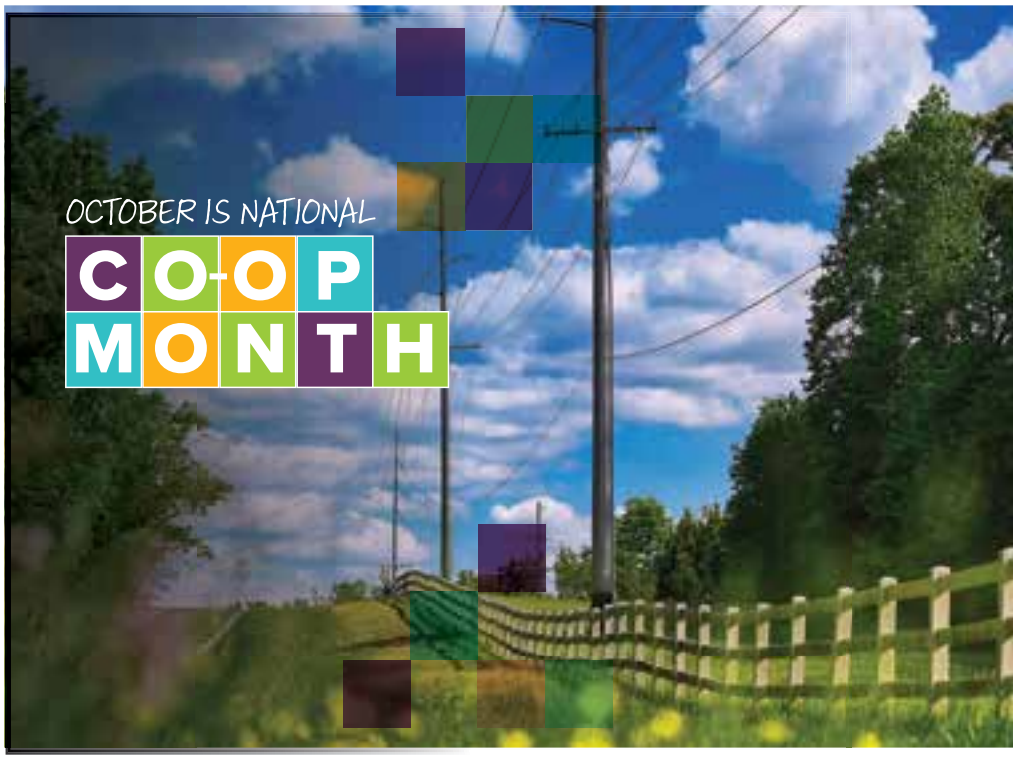
Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) is deeply committed to our consumer-members, and we're glad you are part of the electric cooperative community.

This October, more than 30,000 cooperatives across the U.S. are celebrating National Co-op Month. It's a time to reflect on all the aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses, but more importantly, it's a time to celebrate the power of co-op membership.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities that are built by the communities they serve. For CCEC, our mission has always been to provide you with reliable power. We care about your quality of life, and because we are locally operated, we're uniquely suited to meet our members' evolving energy needs.

Beyond the business of electricity, our employees and directors are equally invested in our local community. Why? Because we live here, too. That's why we work hard to support local economic development projects, youth programs and scholarships, charitable giving initiatives and additional programs that make our community a better place to call home.

All co-ops, including CCEC, are guided by seven cooperative principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement. These seven principles are a framework to help all co-ops navigate challenges and opportunities while remaining true to our purpose:



1. **Open and Voluntary Membership:** Co-op membership is open to anyone who can use the co-op's services.
2. **Democratic Member Control:** Members make decisions that shape the cooperative. Why? Because co-ops are created by the members, for the members.
3. **Members' Economic Participation:** Members contribute money to the co-op to make sure it runs smoothly now and in the future. At CCEC, this happens through paying your energy bills.
4. **Autonomy and Independence:** Co-ops are independent and can operate on their own, which ultimately benefits the members.
5. **Education, Training and Information:** Co-ops continuously focus on education to ensure employees have the training and information they need to make the co-op successful.
6. **Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other out in times of need because we want other co-ops to thrive.
7. **Concern for Community:** All cooperatives work for the greater good of the local communities they serve. Co-ops give back to their communities to help them thrive and grow.

This October, as we celebrate National Co-op Month and the power of membership, we hope you will recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart. Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people — the local communities we're proud to serve.

Does your school or classroom need new materials?

Can your students benefit from new programs and educational resources?

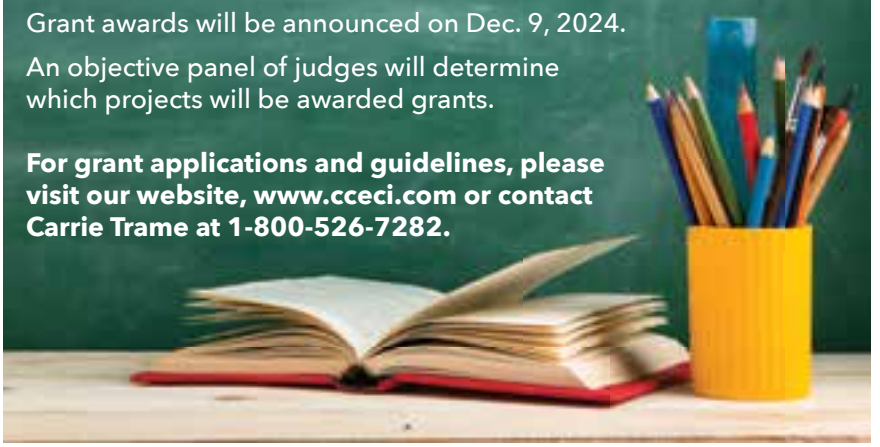
Clinton County Electric Cooperative is again coordinating our grant program with Touchstone Energy for our local private and public Pre-K-12 teachers and administrators. Eight grants of $500 will be provided for innovative, unfunded projects or materials. Qualifying projects are those that improve the learning environment or increase educational resources for the school.

Grant applications are due by Nov. 8, 2024.

Grant awards will be announced on Dec. 9, 2024.

An objective panel of judges will determine which projects will be awarded grants.

For grant applications and guidelines, please visit our website, www.cceci.com or contact Carrie Trame at 1-800-526-7282.



Office Closings

In observance of Veteran's Day, the office will be closed Monday, Nov. 11, 2024.

In observance of Thanksgiving, the office will be closed Thursday, Nov. 28 and Friday, Nov. 29, 2024.

Although the office will be closed, obtain 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.

TRICK OR TREAT

Don't Let an Electrical Mishap Be Your Halloween Trick

As you ready your yard and porch for Halloween, make sure the decorations you plug in do not become hazardous. **To avoid a Halloween scare, take these safety precautions:**

- Discard any decorations that have **cracked or frayed cords** or damaged plugs.
- **Do not** put any decorations on power poles, padmount transformers or any other electrical equipment.
- Use decorations that are endorsed by a reputable testing laboratory such as **Underwriters Laboratories (UL).**
- If you are using extension cords outdoors, make sure they are **rated for outdoor use.**
- **Secure all cords** so they do not become tripping hazards.
- Plug all cords into circuits protected by **GFCIs** to prevent electrical shock.
- **Do not use nails or tacks** to hang lights or other electrical decor.
- Keep decorations **away from flammable items** like bales of hay, cornstalks or witch's brew.

Have a safe and festive Halloween complete with safe tricks and tasty treats.

Learn more at: Safe Electricity.org®