Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Mark your

Calendars

Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. will host the 2023 Annual Meeting of the membership on Thursday, August 17, 2023. The nomination procedure for those interested in running for a seat on the board is published on page 18C.

Annual Meeting

AUGUST 17, 2023

Minutes from CCEC's 83rd Annual Meeting of members

The 83rd Annual Meeting of Members of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held at Central Community High School, 7740 Old US Hwy 50, Breese, Illinois on Thursday, August 18, 2022.

The meeting was called to order by Kevin Kampwerth, Chairman of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative (CCEC) board at 7:30 p.m.

Secretary/Treasurer Kevin Wiegmann acted as secretary and kept the minutes thereof.

Chairman Kampwerth reported there was a quorum present.

The invocation was given by President/COO Bob Kroeger.

All present were then asked to stand for the National Anthem.

As in the past, Robert's Rules of Order governed the meeting.

Chairman Kampwerth then recognized the CCEC Board of Trustees, Advisory Board, Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative (AIEC) employees and special guests including State Representative Charlie Meier.

Secretary/Treasurer Wiegmann read the official notice of the meeting and informed the members that proof of mailing of the meeting notices and number of members is evidenced by the receipt of mailing from the U.S. Postal Service.

Upon motion by John Winter, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting were approved.

The 2022 election consisted of a contested election in district 2 and 3. Upon motion by Ron Becker, seconded and a vote taken thereon, Cary Dickinson, who was running unopposed, from district 1 was re-elected by acclamation to a three-year term set to expire at the Annual Meeting in 2025. Incumbent Joe Voss and John Winter were vying for the district 2 seat. The members in attendance voted to re-elect Joe Voss to represent district 2. In district 3, Eric Henken was running against incumbent Steve Kalmer. The membership re-elected Steve Kalmer to represent district 3. Voss and Kalmer's terms will also expire at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

Chairman Kampwerth welcomed members to the meeting and discussed CCEC's business model

Continued on 18B ▶

"Minutes" continued from 18A

and how it sets the co-op apart from other electric utilities.

Kampwerth demonstrated CCEC's "Concern for Community" by explaining ways the co-op has invested in the community, including academic scholarships to high school and college students who are members or dependents of CCEC members, and providing grants to area educators to help fund educational projects.

"For many years, CCEC has been dedicated to giving back to the community it serves," Kampwerth said.

Secretary/Treasurer Wiegmann provided the treasurer's report. "Your electric co-op is financially sound and strong," he began. Wiegmann explained that a little over 16.8 million in revenue was collected in 2021, and the co-op spent $15.8 million to operate. About $10.6 million was power purchased from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, the co-op's electric supplier.

For 2021, the co-op generated about $1 million in margins. The current capital credit balance is $9.4 million, and CCEC has returned more than $9.6 million to members since its beginning over 80 years ago. In March, the co-op paid $450,000 in capital credits earned in 1996, 97, 98, and 2001 to members.

Next, Illinois State Representative Charlie Meyer spoke briefly on the volatile energy market.

Then, CCEC President Bob Kroeger addressed members. "As I've stated in the past, safety takes priority over everything else. I'm proud to report we did not experience any lost time accidents in 2021 nor have we experienced any lost time accidents to date in 2022. The employees of Clinton County Electric have now worked over 519,000 hours since our last accident dating back over thirteen years to April 15, 2009. Considering the working conditions and hazards that come with this business, that's pretty amazing."

In addition, he discussed the importance of public safety, which included right-of-way maintenance, pole testing and treatment, and rebuilding overhead lines, all to prevent outages and increase safety. "Although we will never reach 100 percent reliability or eliminate all safety risks, hopefully these programs will continue to move us toward meeting the goal of our mission statement: To provide safe and reliable services to benefit our member-owners," Kroeger said.

Kroeger then discussed rates and summarized by saying, "There was a decrease of approximately $8.75 per month implemented back in 2021 and an average increase of $5.00 per month implemented in 2022. So in essence our rates are still lower than they were in 2020." He went on to say, "In the next couple weeks, we will begin working through the 2023 budget process. As part of that process, we will take into account inflation and supply chain problems. If any rate adjustments are needed, we will likely alter the Power Cost Adjustment as needed to reach our targeted operating margins, just as we have done in the past."

President Kroeger then spent some time talking about the Cost-of-Service Study and Rate Design recently completed by SIPC. The results of the Rate Design will likely produce a new wholesale rate from SIPC. That new wholesale rate will be better aligned with today's energy market and could possibly lead to new time-of-use rates and demand-based rates for CCEC members.

The volatile energy market and the possibility of rolling blackouts were next in President Kroeger's speech. He told the membership, "CCEC may or may not receive advanced notification of a rolling blackout event. Please be assured, we will attempt to communicate all details to the membership as soon as they become available to us via phone, e-mail, our website, and Facebook."

President Kroeger closed his portion of the evening by saying, "I believe the membership of CCEC is the greatest asset we have. After all, you are the owners of this co-op. I believe the second greatest asset we have are our employees. The employees play a key role in the success of CCEC. They take pride in that responsibility and serving the membership. I'm proud of their commitment and dedication."

Upon motion by Ron Zurliene, seconded and a vote taken thereon, all reports given by the officers and the president were approved.

President Kroeger recognized the following CCEC employees for their years of dedicated service to the membership: Kyle Wiegmann, 5 years in 2021; John Schroeder, 5 years in 2021; Jared Kampwerth, 5 years in 2022; Mike Faust, 20 years in 2021; and Brian Taylor, 25 years in 2021.

President Kroeger also recognized the following CCEC board member for their years of dedicated service to the membership: Cary Dickinson, 25 years in 2021.

Four cash prizes were awarded. The winners were: Jacinta Jansen, $100; Village of Hoffman, $50; Dan Ribbing, $50; and Tom Beckmann, $50.

There being no further business to come before the 83rd Annual Meeting of Members of the Clinton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., upon motion by Craig Benhoff, seconded and a vote taken thereon, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Kampwerth.

_____

Kevin Wiegmann,
Secretary/Treasurer

_____

Kevin Kampwerth, Chairman

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.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY QUIZ

May is National Electrical Safety Month! Take this quiz to test your safety skills. Check your answers in the key below.

1. It's safe to plug in several devices to one electrical outlet as long as you use a power strip.

A. True B. False

2. Smoke alarms should be tested _____.

A. Every month B. Every other month C. Every six months

3. Extension cords are safe to use year-round if the cord is not frayed or damaged.

A. True B. False

4. When unplugging a device from an electrical outlet, always hold the _____ while unplugging.

A. Cord B. Plug C. Device

5. It's never safe to play near power lines, but it's OK to play near pad-mounted transformers (those big green boxes you see in neighborhoods).

A. True B. False

6. Where is the most dangerous place to use electricity?

A. Near other electrical equipment B. Outdoors C. Near water

Answer Key: 1. B 2. A 3. B 4. B 5. B 6. C

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The location of your thermostat can impact your HVAC system's ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. For maximum accuracy, thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors. Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat, which can cause the HVAC to run longer than necessary. Avoid installing thermostats in rooms that tend to feel warmer or colder than the rest of the home. Do not place furniture in front of the thermostat, which can block air flow and result in inaccurate readings.

Considering Solar? Call us first!

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.

HAPPY Memorial Day

IN HONOR OF OUR HEROES

In observance of Memorial Day, the office will be closed Monday, May 29, 2023.