

Clay Electric News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

7784 Old Hwy. 50 ■ P.O. Box 517 ■ Flora, Illinois 62839 ■ www.ceci.coop ■ 618/662-2171 ■ 800/582-9012



From the Manager

One of the seven guiding cooperative principles is 'Concern for Community.' Clay Electric Co-operative is dedicated to being not only your trusted power partner but a good steward for the community. One of the services we provided to our members is access to discounted rates for the Air Evac Lifeteam. Helicopter transport in the case of a medical emergency can be needed to get you or a loved one to a facility with the proper expertise and equipment. The cost, however, can be very steep. Membership with Air Evac Lifeteam covers the cost should you need to be transported by helicopter for a medical emergency. You can enroll with Air Evac Lifeteam

through Clay Electric Co-operative for \$5 per month on your electric bill. Enrolling with Air Evac Lifeteam through Clay Electric saves you \$25 a year and eliminates the need to renew the membership annually.

With the warming weather, we are entering the storm season. We want to remind all our members to be mindful of severe storms in the coming months and how you should react to storm damage. **10292-004** Avoid downed lines and poles and never assume a line is dead. If you experience an outage, call us to let us know your situation. If you have trouble getting through to our call-out center during a major storm event, just remember there is a large call volume

and they can only handle so much. You can follow us on Facebook to get updates on storm and outage information in our service area.

As you flip through your newsletter, keep your eyes peeled for your member number. There are three member numbers hidden in Clay Electric News. If you find your number and give us a call, you win \$5 off your next bill!



Luke Johnson
CEO



4 COMMON CULPRITS OF ELECTRICAL FIRES

Outdated wiring and overloaded circuits are the most common causes of electrical fires.

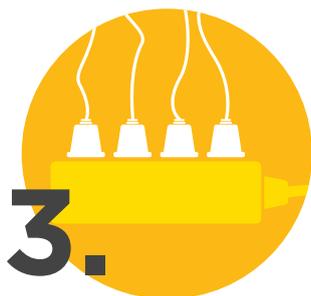
Check the following areas of your home to ensure your home's electrical safety is up to par.



Electrical outlets: Faulty electrical outlets are a leading cause of home fires. As outlets age, so do the wires behind them that you can't see. Any loose, damaged or warm-to-the-touch outlets should be repaired or replaced.



Electrical wiring: Outdated wiring is another common cause of electrical fires. Frequently tripped breakers, flickering lights and burning smells are clear warning signs. If your home is more than 20 years old, it may not be able to handle today's increased power load. If you suspect your home's wiring is outdated, leave this one to the pros and contact a qualified electrician.



Overloaded cords and outlets: Extension cords are not permanent solutions. If your big-screen TV, home theater system and other electronics are plugged into one extension cord, it's time to call an electrician and install additional outlets.



Old appliances: Older appliances are more likely to have loose or damaged wiring, which means they're more likely to catch fire. Check older appliances for damage and determine if it's time to upgrade or replace. Also check to ensure you're using appliance-grade outlets. A qualified electrician can help with installation.

What your teen should know about electrical safety

Parents of teens can relate. You want to share important information with your teen but he or she braces for the next lecture. Your teen may give you the quintessential eye roll but sharing this safety information could help save his or her life. So, when the time is right, relay this information to your teenager to prevent electrical shock.

At home

Do not use a cell phone near the bathtub or sink or with wet hands while it is plugged in and charging. **Do not** use an extension cord in the bathroom to extend your phone's reach closer to the tub. Teens have died after a charging phone dropped into bath water.

Do not sleep with your charging cell phone under your pillow or in bed with you. The phone can overheat, causing bedding to catch on fire or burn skin. Also, a short in the charging cord can cause electrical shock when using your phone. This is especially a risk when using generic or incompatible charging equipment. Always replace charging equipment with brand name/matching items. They cost more, but they are less likely to malfunction.

Do not charge your cell phone, tablet or other devices on soft surfaces such as a blanket, pillow or bedding.

On the road

- If you are in an accident



involving a downed power line or damaged padmount transformer or other electrical equipment, call 9-1-1 and **DO NOT** get out of your car. Only get out if there is smoke or your car is on fire. If that's the case, make a clean exit from the vehicle (make a solid jump out without touching the car) and hop with feet together as far as you can. **DO NOT WALK.** If there is damaged power equipment, the ground and anything else the lines touch could have electrical current running through it.

- If you approach an accident with a downed power line, **DO NOT** attempt to help the victims and do not go near the scene. Instead, call 9-1-1 and warn others not to approach the area.

Outside

- **Do not** use plugged in devices (e.g. a charging cell phone) near water like a pool or hot tub or in damp conditions.
- If you are swimming in a lake and feel odd sensations in your body, such as tingling or zaps, swim away from the dock or other source of electricity (e.g. lights). **4272-002** Sometimes electrical currents can leak into the water and can cause electric shock drowning. If you feel odd sensations in a wading pool, hot tub or swimming pool, get out.

Although you can't cover all these tips with your teen in one sitting, they are important to convey and could prevent injuries and save lives. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

MEMBER PRIZES

Every month we will have three member numbers hidden throughout Clay Electric News. If you find your member number that corresponds to the one found on the upper right corner of your bill, call our office and identify your number and the page it's on. If correct, you will win a \$5 credit on your next electric bill.

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

March 23, 2020

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the Clay Electric Co-operative Headquarters, Flora, Illinois beginning at 7:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2020.

Trustees present were Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Bill Croy, Danny Schnepfer, Greg Smith, and Frank Herman. Also present was Luke Johnson, CEO. Frank Czyzewski, Richard Rudolph, Neil Gould, and Tyra Cycholl, Attorney for the Board, participated via conference call. Earl Riddlen, Auditor, was also present via conference call. The meeting was opened by Bob Pierson, who presided and Greg Smith, acted as secretary thereof.

The pledge of allegiance was recited followed by the invocation, given by Greg Smith. **7439-001**

The following proceedings were had [all action being first duly moved and seconded and all action taken being upon the unanimous vote of the Board or without dissenting vote of abstention unless otherwise stated]:

APPROVED, the Suggested Agenda.

HEARD, the Audit report from Earl Riddlen.

APPROVED, scheduling the Audit review for the April Meeting. Thereafter, at 7:20 p.m., Earl Riddlen left the meeting.

APPROVED, removing the Credit Card Statement from the Consent Agenda.

DISCUSSED, the Credit Card Statements.

APPROVED, the Credit Card Statements.

APPROVED, the Consent Agenda including the following:

- **APPROVED**, the prior meeting minutes.
- **APPROVED**, (a) to admit to membership those 4 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 8 former members shown on the Manager's Report since the last such review by the Board,

said members no longer taking service;

■ **APPROVED**, the Work Orders;

■ **APPROVED**, the Disbursements;

■ **REVIEWED**, the Attorney Retainer;

■ **REVIEWED**, the Account Summary Report;

■ **REVIEWED**, the February Compliance Exchange;

■ **REVIEWED**, the CRC Report from the Board;

■ **REVIEWED**, the CRC Benefits.

APPROVED, the Farm Lease Agreement.

REVIEWED and **DISCUSSED**, the Line Extension Policy 900-1.

APPROVED, the Line Extension Policy 900-1.

REVIEWED and **DISCUSSED**, the CFC Loan Refinancing and Savings.

APPROVED, the CFC Loan Refinancing.

REVIEWED, the NRECA Annual Meeting.

HEARD, a report by Frank Herman regarding the SIPC Meetings held via Conference Call.

HEARD, a report by Kevin Logan regarding the AIEC Financials.

WERE INFORMED, the Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. is cancelled.

WERE REMINDED, of the Aces Conference May 28-29, 2020.

As of now, the meeting is still scheduled.

At 7:47 p.m. **APPROVED**, entering into Executive Session.

At 8:01 p.m., **APPROVED**, exiting Executive Session and returning to Open Session.

APPROVED, the final 2019 Form 7.

HEARD and **APPROVED**, a financial report by Luke Johnson as to the following:

- February 2019 Form 7;
- February 2019 Balance Sheet;
- February 2019 Cash Flow;
- SIPC Power Delivered in January 2020 dated March 5, 2020;
- January Line Loss;

- Monthly Reconciliation;
- Federated Check;
- SEDC Check.

HEARD, a Safety Report for the month of March.

REVIEWED, the Monday morning safety meeting sheet dated March 16, 2020.

HEARD and **APPROVED**, the Manager's report by Luke Johnson on the following topics.

- Operations Report;
- Communications Report;
- 2020 Member Satisfaction Survey;
- 60 Day Notice CBA 2020;
- Upcoming meetings.

REVIEWED, the Operations Report.

REVIEWED, the Communications Report.

REVIEWED, the 2020 Member Satisfaction Survey.

WERE INFORMED, of the 60-day notice from CBA.

APPROVED, moving the April board meeting to April 27, 2020 at 7 p.m.

WERE REMINDED, of upcoming meetings on April 27, 2020 at 7 p.m., May 26, 2020, and June 22, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the Clay board room.

There being no further business to come before the board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

**Clay Electric
Co-operative, Inc.**

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Office hours:
7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
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