

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

This August is a special month for Clay Electric Co-operative. It is a return to normalcy as our 77th annual meeting will be held on August 26 at Oil Belt Christian Service Camp on the west side of Flora. This year's event will be smaller than in the past and will forego the health fair and children's activities we have had in the past, but it will be in person. We look forward to fellowshiping with all of you over a nice porkchop and Klondike Bar.

For our members who enjoyed the digital annual meeting last year, we will again be broadcasting the event live on Facebook through our CECI Member's Only Group. You can join by applying at facebook.com/groups/ceciilmembers and providing your name and member number.

"Concern for Community" is one of the seven cooperative principles. It is a part of what makes cooperatives so special. We aren't just another business or utility; we were born from the efforts of the community to bring power and better living conditions to the rural areas of our county that were being left behind by modernization. We continue that tradition today, working to maintain safe, reliable and affordable services for our members.

We have recently completed an upgrade to our metering system that gives us faster and better information on our member's usage and how to



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best serve the membership. The new outage tracking software integrated into our new system has already lowered the response time of our service crews. Their continued work in building and replacing line has continued to increase the reliability of the system and we are very happy with how few outage events we have had so far this year through the storm season. Our linemen's continued work and dedication are greatly appreciated. **3-001**

Your elected board members show their concern for the wellbeing of the community by fighting hard to maintain reliable service and affordable rates. The cost of power and the very sources of power used in Illinois are changing and ensuring that those changes do not unduly burden the membership is at the forefront of each of your board member's minds.

Current legislation aimed, in part, at shutting down Prairie State Energy Campus threatens to strand Illinois' electric cooperatives with millions of

dollars of stranded debt while being forced to source more power from a volatile energy market. As not-for-profit cooperatives, there are no profits to absorb the increased cost this legislation would force upon them. The only way to continue to provide power to our members would be to pass this 20-25 percent increase on to you.

We ask our members to make their voices

heard and let Springfield know that policy cannot get ahead of technology. Rural Illinois cannot afford to prematurely shut down one of the newest and cleanest coal power plants in the country. Please visit voicesforcooperativepower.com/illinois and let your voice be heard.

As always, keep a lookout for your member number in the center section of this magazine. 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!



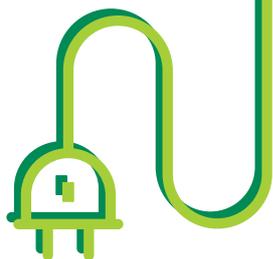
Luke
Johnson
CEO

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When shopping for new light bulbs, know the difference between lumens and watts. Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption.

Energy-saving LEDs come in a variety of colors and brightness levels and last 15-25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

Source: energy.gov



Clay Electric Co-operative 77th Annual Meeting

The Clay Electric Co-operative 77th Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, August 26 at the Oil Belt Christian Service Camp west of Flora. Registration will begin at 5 p.m. with a meal. The business meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. Each member of the cooperative will receive a booklet in the mail this month with a copy of last year's minutes and our reports to the membership. The mailer will also have a barcode printed on the back with your member number to make registration more efficient. Please bring your mailer with you on the night of the annual meeting to help us keep things running smooth.



The 77th Annual Meeting of the Members of Clay Electric Co-operative will be a smaller affair than in years past. Coming on the heels of the COVID-19 health crisis, and with the questions surrounding what restrictions might be in place when the meeting is held, the board of directors and management of Clay Electric have decided to scale back the activities offered. This year's meeting will not have a health fair or children's activities. **3033-001** We will use that space to better maintain social distancing between our tables. Prize drawings will still be held, and a total of three scholarships for area seniors will be given out.



This year will see us drawing three \$500 scholarships. Applications are available on page 4 of this magazine, at our office by request, or online at facebook.com/ceci.coop. Forms must arrive at Clay Electric Co-operative by Friday, August 20 to be placed in the drawing at the meeting.



We look forward to seeing you all there in person, but with the success of our digital annual meeting last year, we will be broadcasting the meeting live on Facebook as well. The online broadcast will be made on our Member's Only group at facebook.com/groups/ceciilmembers. To join, simply find our group online and click "join." You will be asked for your name and member number and will be accepted within a few business days. Whichever way you decide to participate in your annual meeting, we look forward to sharing with you what your cooperative is doing to continue to provide, safe, reliable and affordable service.

LED: A rising star in energy savings



In 2007, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) passed the Energy and Independence Act. The passing of this legislation made the future of incandescent light bulbs quite dim.

While this legislation included a wide range of recommendations for the energy industry, one requirement was that new light bulbs use 25 percent less energy. As a result, there was a push between 2012 and 2014 to replace older incandescent light bulbs with newer, more energy-efficient versions.

Traditional incandescent bulbs produce light by heating a wire filament to a temperature that results in the generation of light. Incandescent bulbs were popular because they were inexpensive and available in a wide range of colors. However, much of their energy went into heat production and little toward emitting light.

Incandescent light bulbs have a short lifespan, lasting only about a year on average. Although they are no longer available in U.S. stores, the energy costs associated with the once-popular bulb, along with its stunted

lifespan, outweigh the initial savings at the cash register.

Nowadays, the three most common light bulbs include light-emitting diode (LED), halogen incandescent and compact fluorescent light (CFL). According to the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, in the third quarter of 2018, light bulb orders were broken down as follows: LEDs accounted for 65 percent, halogens made up 28 percent and CFLs were 7 percent.

What makes LEDs different? LED light bulbs work when an electrical current pass through a microchip, which illuminates the tiny light sources called LEDs and result in visible light. LED bulbs produce light up to 90 percent more efficiently than traditional incandescent light bulbs. They also include features that keep the bulb cooler to the touch, which avoids potential injuries and fire risks.

LEDs are safer than their competitors. CFLs contain a small amount of mercury, which is dangerous if ingested. This type of bulb should not be thrown in the trash. Halogen

bulbs operate at high temperatures, which means they can cause burns to the skin if touched. They can also cause a fire if they contact something flammable.

Moreover, many LEDs are rated with a lifespan of 50,000 hours. If one is used 8 hours a day, it is projected to last 17 years. Residential LEDs, especially those designated with the ENERGY STAR logo, use at least 75 percent less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent lighting, according to the DOE.

In comparison, halogen light bulbs last about a year and CFL bulbs about 3 years (both based on 8-hour-a-day usage). **11566-001**

LEDs help the environment while reducing energy costs. According to the DOE, their widespread use is on track to save the equivalent annual electrical output of 44 large electric power plants, with a total savings of more than \$30 billion, by the year 2027.

For more information about electrical safety and energy efficiency, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

June 28, 2021

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the Clay Electric Cooperative Headquarters, Flora, Illinois beginning at 7:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, June 28, 2021.

Trustees present were: Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Bill Croy, Neil Gould, Richard Rudolphi, Frank Czyzewski, Frank Herman, Josh Schnepfer and Evan Smith. Also present were: Luke Johnson, CEO and Tyra Cycholl, Attorney for the Board. The meeting was opened by Bob Pierson, who presided and Neil Gould, acted as secretary thereof.

The invocation was given by Frank Herman and was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

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.

REVIEWED, the PPP Loan forgiveness letter.

APPROVED, the Consent Agenda including the following:

- **APPROVED**, the prior meeting minutes.
- **APPROVED**, (a) to admit to membership those 8 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 12 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;
- **APPROVED**, the Credit Card Statements;
- **REVIEWED**, the Attorney Retainer;
- **REVIEWED**, the Account Summary Report;
- **REVIEWED**, the NCSC Report from the Board;
- **REVIEWED**, the CFC Report from the Board;
- **REVIEWED**, the Federated Report from the Board and the Member Update.

APPROVED, the June write-offs.

APPROVED, the RDLG Loan with the City of Fairfield.

HEARD, a report by Frank Herman regarding the SIPC Meeting.

HEARD, a report by Kevin Logan regarding the AIEC Board Meeting and the AIEC Annual Meeting Agenda.

WERE REMINDED, the Board Training class BLC 905 Assessing Governance will be held on July 28, 2021.

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

- Monthly Reconciliation;
- SIPC Power Delivered in May 2021;
- May 2021 Cash Flow;
- Line Loss;
- May 2021 Form 7;
- May 2021 Balance Sheet.

REVIEWED the Safety Committee Report.

REVIEWED, the Monday morning Safety meeting held June 21, 2021.

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

- Operations Report;
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings.

REVIEWED, the Operations Report.

REVIEWED, the Communications Report.

WERE REMINDED, of upcoming meetings on, July 26, 2021, Aug. 30, 2021 and Sept. 27, 2021 at 7 p.m. in the Clay Board Room. Annual Meeting to be held Aug. 26, 2021.

REVIEWED, thank you cards from members.

In New Business, **WERE INFORMED**, the Youth to Washington trip is cancelled for this year.

APPROVED, donating the budgeted amount for the Youth to Washington trip to Clay County CEO. Bill Croy abstained.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 9 p.m.



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.

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