

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

It's a new year and a great time to look toward the future. There's a lot planned for 2020 at Clay Electric Co-operative. We continue to upgrade and maintain our lines to increase the reliability of our system. This means more stability for each of you. This year will also see us begin to upgrade our metering. Technology has greatly advanced in the electric industry and Clay Electric will be adopting new metering systems and equipment to better be able to track our members usage and find potential problems before the lights even go out. Expect to hear more about our metering upgrades later this year! 13619-002

Safety is something we value very highly at the cooperative. We encourage all our members to stay safe as the weather gets worse and to take basic preparations. Weatherproof your home and keep an emergency kit in your car. Check out the article on page 20B for ways you

can be prepared for winter storms.

If you experience an outage in a winter weather event, please make sure to contact the cooperative at 800-582-9012. In severe winter storms, our dispatchers receive large call volumes. We ask our members to be patient and to make sure to stay on the line and report your outages. Outage information will be posted on Facebook at [Facebook.com/ceci.coop/](https://www.facebook.com/ceci.coop/), but the only way to ensure your outage information makes it to our dispatcher is to call it in.

I'd like to take a moment to mention solar and other renewable energy options available to our members. It's an exciting area of technological advancement and Illinois is a leader in its implementation. We want to help our membership understand what is available and how it may affect them. It is important for our members to know that any solar installation must be owned by the member. Please call or stop by if



Luke Johnson
CEO

you have any questions about what kind of builds work in our area. With different laws and subsidies, there are lots of questions floating around. Come talk to us. It's always best to make sure you understand the full impact and potential pitfalls of any major construction project. We are here to be your trusted energy partner. Never hesitate to come to us with any questions.

As you flip through your newsletter, keep your eyes peeled for your member number. We are excited to have given out our first prize last month! 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!

Clay Electric Co-operative is proud to announce the new Co-op Connections app for your Apple or Android device. You may remember the Co-op Connections discount card. While the discount card will still be available and accepted by our partners, the new digital app has improved usability. With the app you can find local deals, book hotel rooms through our partnership with iBennie, earn cash back and more.



We would like to take a moment to thank our member businesses for partnering with us to provide you with discounts. This corner of our center section will be dedicated to highlighting the businesses that work with us to provide tremendous

services and discounts to our membership. If you are a business owner interested in partnering with Clay Electric Co-operative, please call our office at 618-662-2171 or email CoopConnections@ceci.coop. There is no cost to the program. We help our members connect with local businesses and get some great discounts. It's a win-win.

Premier1 Entertainment is a DJ service that specializes in weddings, parties and events. Premier1 has more than 20 years of experience in entertainment and provides professional services for everything from elegant wedding ceremonies and receptions to parties that rock the night away. You can contact Premier1 Entertainment on Facebook at [Facebook.com/Premier1Entertainment](https://www.facebook.com/Premier1Entertainment) or at 618-838-2555.



CO-OP CONNECTIONS CORNER

Preparing for a winter storm

During extremely cold weather or winter storms, staying warm and safe can be a challenge. Winter storms can bring cold temperatures, power failures, loss of communication services and icy roads. To keep yourself and your loved ones safe, you should know how to prepare your home and your car before a winter storm hits. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention have excellent tips for how you can be better prepared for a weather emergency.

Make a plan

More than a collection of names, phone numbers and street addresses, an Emergency Action Plan is an instruction manual for how to stay healthy, stay informed and stay in contact in an emergency. Because an Emergency Action Plan affects everyone in your home, the whole household should be involved in making and practicing the plan.

According to FEMA, more than 60 percent of people don't have an emergency plan that they have discussed with their household. Here are five simple things you can do to start your Emergency Action Plan:

1. Find phone numbers for your physician, pediatrician, pharmacist and veterinarian. Other important numbers you should know include:

Poison Control Center:
800-222-1222

Animal Poison Control Helpline:
888-426-4435

Disaster Distress Helpline:
800-985-5990 or text
TalkWithUs to 66746



PHOTO COURTESY OF OH SNAP! PHOTOGRAPHY

Winter is a beautiful time of year, but it's important to be prepared.

2. Ask a friend or relative who lives outside of the immediate area—preferably in another state—to be your family's Out-of-Town Contact.
 3. Identify a shelter-in-place location inside your home, two emergency meeting places outside your home where your family can reunite in an emergency, and at least two ways out of every room in your home.
 4. Ask your child's school or daycare about their emergency communication and family reunification plans.
 5. Update your Emergency Action Plan whenever your family moves, your child changes schools, you change jobs, have a child or experience some other significant life event.
- Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows.
 - Insulate walls and attic.
 - Install storm or thermal-pane windows or cover windows with plastic from the inside.
 - Repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on your home or other structure during a storm.

Install a smoke detector and a battery-operated CO detector

If you'll be using a fireplace, wood stove or kerosene heater, install a smoke detector and a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector near the area to be heated. Test them monthly and replace batteries twice a year. Also, keep a multipurpose, dry-chemical fire extinguisher nearby.

Each winter have your furnace system and vent checked by a qualified technician to ensure they are functioning properly. 12012-001

Weatherproof your home

- Insulate any water lines that run along exterior walls so your water supply will be less likely to freeze.



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.

Be Ready! Winter Weather



Create an emergency car kit

It is best to avoid traveling, but if travel is necessary, keep the following in your car:

- Cell phone, portable charger and extra batteries
- Items to stay warm such as extra hats, coats, mittens and blankets
- Windshield scraper
- Shovel
- Battery-powered radio with extra batteries
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Water and snack food
- First aid kit with any necessary medications and a pocketknife
- Tow chains or rope
- Tire chains
- Canned compressed air with sealant for emergency tire repair
- Cat litter or sand to help tires get traction, or road salt to melt ice
- Booster cables with fully charged battery or jumper cables
- Hazard or other reflectors
- Bright colored flag or help signs, emergency distress flag and/or emergency flares
- Road maps

- Waterproof matches and a can to melt snow for water

Listen to weather forecasts regularly and check your emergency supplies, including your emergency food and water supply, whenever you are expecting a winter storm or extreme cold. Although we can't always predict extreme cold in advance, weather forecasts can sometimes give you several days of notice to prepare.

Get your car ready

Have maintenance service on your vehicle as often as the manufacturer recommends. In addition, do the following annually before the winter storm season:

- Have the radiator system serviced or check the antifreeze level yourself with an antifreeze tester. Add antifreeze as needed.
- Replace windshield-wiper fluid with a wintertime mixture.
- Make sure the tires on your car have adequate tread and air pressure. Replace any worn tires and fill low tires with air to the proper pressure recommended for your car (typically between 30-35 psi).
- Keep the gas tank near full to

help avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.

- Keep your car in good working order. Be sure to check the following: heater, defroster, brakes, brake fluid, ignition, emergency flashers, exhaust, oil and battery.

Bring your pets indoors

If you have pets, bring them indoors. If you cannot bring them inside, provide adequate shelter to keep them warm and make sure they have access to unfrozen water.

Safety is everyone's priority, especially in the winter months. Be cautious, be safe and be mindful.



Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

November 25, 2019

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 1:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, November 25, 2019.

Trustees present were: Kevin Logan, Bill Croy, Frank Czyzewski, Bob Pierson, Richard Rudolph, Neil Gould, Greg Smith, Danny Schnepfer and Frank Herman. Also present were: Luke Johnson, CEO, and Tyra Cycholl, Attorney for the Board. Special Guests were, Adam McKnight, Bill Hutchinson SIPC Engineer, Michelle Knox, Jean and Bob Bailey, Kim Carter, and Richard Herdes. The meeting was opened by Bob Pierson, who presided and Greg Smith, Secretary, acted as secretary thereof.

The invocation was given by Luke Johnson, 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.

HEARD, from special guests Michelle Knox, Jean and Bob Bailey, Kim Carter, and Richard Herdes regarding solar policy.

Thereafter, at 1:45 p.m. Michelle Knox, Jean and Bob Bailey, Kim Carter, and Richard Herdes as well as Adam McKnight and Bill Hutchinson, left the meeting.

REVIEWED and **DISCUSSED**, the Solar Policy.

APPROVED, the Consent Agenda including the following:

- **APPROVED**, the prior meeting minutes.
- **APPROVED**, (a) to admit to membership those 14 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 14 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;

■ **APPROVED**, the insurance certificates;

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

■ **REVIEWED**, the Federated Report;

■ **REVIEWED**, the CFC Report.

■ **REVIEWED**, the Clay Power Factor;

■ **REVIEWED**, the October Compliance Exchange.

APPROVED, the CEO Resolution as presented.

APPROVED, the Depreciation Report.

OPENED three sealed bids for the forklift.

APPROVED selling the forklift to the high bidder.

APPROVED, purchasing a new AMI from Landis & Gyr.

APPROVED, hiring a full time MSO position and signing the Letter of Agreement with the Union.

REVIEWED and **APPROVED**, the 2018 Form 990.

DISCUSSED, the CFC Workshop February 6-7.

REVIEWED, the CFC Line of Credit and CFC Capital Credit check.

DISCUSSED, the Annual Meeting for NRECA in New Orleans March 1-4.

HEARD a report by Frank Herman regarding the SIPC meeting.

HEARD a report by Kevin Logan regarding the AIEC meeting.

HEARD the 2020 Budget Preview as to the following:

- Capital Items;
- Advertising;
- Capital Credits;
- Budget Forecast;
- Budget Sources of Funds and Capital Expenditures.

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

- October 2019 Form 7;
- October 2019 Balance Sheet;

■ October 2019 Cash Flow;

■ SIPC Power Delivered in October 2019 dated November 8, 2019;

October 2019 Power Factor;

• October Power Cost Adder;

October Line Loss;

■ Monthly Reconciliation;

■ Luke's CRPF Certificate.

HEARD, a Safety Report for the month of November, including the November Safety Committee Report.

REVIEWED, the Monday morning safety meeting sheet dated November 12, 2019.

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

■ October Operations Report;

■ Communications Report;

■ UUS Capital Credit Check;

■ Upcoming meetings

REVIEWED, the October Operations Report.


REVIEWED, the Communications Report. 9284-001

WERE REMINDED, of upcoming meetings on December 23, 2019, Jan. 27, 2020 and Feb. 24, 2020 at 1 p.m. in the Clay board room. A special board meeting will be Dec. 4, 2019 at 2 p.m. The Christmas party will be Dec. 16, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at Venue 720.

REVIEWED, thank you notes from Mildred Cox and Vermont Electric Cooperative.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

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