

# Clay ELECTRIC News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

## From the Manager

It's another month into 2020 and your cooperative is staying busy maintaining your lines and preparing for the future. Safely maintaining and improving our system is the best way to provide you with reliable power, and I'm blessed to have a group of linemen that take their responsibilities to our membership as seriously as I do. I'm proud of the culture of service Clay Electric has instilled in all our employees.

If you looked on your last bill, you will have noticed a credit on your accounts. This credit represents a rebate our power provider, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, returned to us. We, in turn, have distributed this one-time rebate to all our members. We are a not-for-profit cooperative. The board of directors and the management of Clay Electric Co-operative decided that the best

use of this rebate was to return it to the membership.

In this month's bill, you will notice an insert containing a survey. As a cooperative, one of our core principles is democratic member control. Your elected directors guide the cooperative's decisions. Surveys like these inform them of the membership's opinions. We encourage all our members to return these surveys with their February bills. **9876-001**

We would like to remind you that if you experience an outage, please make sure to contact the cooperative at 800-582-9012. In severe 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://facebook.com/ceci.coop), but the only way to ensure

your outage information makes it to our dispatcher is to call it in. This is the time of year for winter storms and freezing temperatures. Check out page 13 in this issue for some tips from Clay County Water, Inc. on how to protect your pipes as the temperature drops.

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!

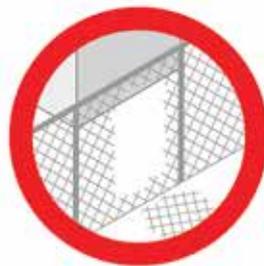


Luke Johnson  
CEO

## Electrical Substation Safety Tips



Teach youngsters to stay away from electrical substation fences — they are NOT for climbing.



Contact us if you see a substation fence or transformer cabinet that is open or vandalized.



Never fly kites or drones near substations.



Never release metallic balloons near substations, which can cause outages when they contact power lines.



**C**lay 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. **10772-003** 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](mailto: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.

Anthony's Wild West opened in 2006 on Main Street in Flora. Anthony's features pizza, BBQ, sandwiches and more on a delightful



menu. A full bar is available in the back at the Fallout Saloon. The restaurant is open Monday-Saturday and the attached Fallout Saloon is open every day. You can enjoy food, drinks and video gaming at Anthony's Wild West at 107 E. North Ave in Flora. Give them a call at 618-662-2400 or check them out online at [anthonyswildwest.com](http://anthonyswildwest.com) or on Facebook at [facebook.com/anthonyswildwest](https://facebook.com/anthonyswildwest).

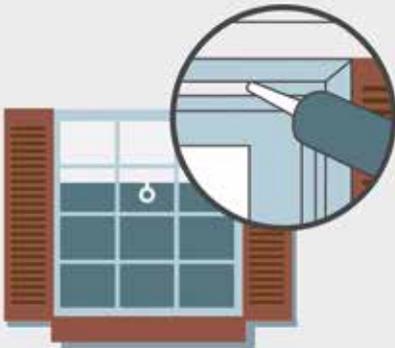
## CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CORNER



# EASY WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY

## WEATHERIZE

Seal doors and windows with caulk, weather stripping and/or plastic film.



## SEAL IN WARMTH

Close blinds and curtains during the night to keep cold air out. Open them during the day to let sunlight in.



## COOK UP SAVINGS

Use smaller appliances, like microwaves, toaster ovens and slow cookers when possible.



# Keep your furry friends safe around electricity

**Y**ou do all you can to keep your pets healthy: you take them to the veterinarian for checkups, feed them well and ensure they are up to date on vaccinations. After all, for many people, pets are part of the family.

Two-thirds (67 percent) of U.S. households, or about 85 million families, own at least one pet, according to the 2019-2020 National Pet Owners Survey. The survey was conducted by the American Pet Products Association, and the numbers are up 11 percent from 1988.

There is something else you can do for your pets, and that is to keep them safe around electricity. **Clay Electric Co-operative** and **Safe Electricity** offer these tips:

- Puppies and other pets love to chew on electrical cords. Keep cords out of sight or hidden with a cord cover. Provide teething or play alternatives.
- Watch your pet around dangling or sagging cords, including phone or tablet charging cables. Unplug charging cables once your devices are charged. Not only do they draw a small amount of energy when not in use, but the dangling cords are just crying to be played with.



- Watch where you place lamps and other plugged-in items. Lamps can be a fire hazard if they are knocked over, especially if they have halogen bulbs.
- Do not leave your pet alone around items that get hot: curling irons and straighteners, an outdoor grill, a portable heater and other electric appliances, including cooktops.

Pet proof your home much like you would for a baby or toddler. **7864-001** If you suspect your pet has

been shocked or burned, take it to the vet right away. Owners may not realize a pet has been shocked until a few hours later when it has trouble breathing. Other symptoms include ulcers in the mouth and lesions on the tongue and gums.

For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

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.

**MEMBER PRIZES**

## Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

7784 Old Hwy. 50,  
P.O. Box 517,  
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618-662-2171  
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Office hours:  
7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.  
[www.ceci.coop](http://www.ceci.coop)  
[facebook.com/ceci.coop](https://facebook.com/ceci.coop)



# Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

## December 23, 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, December 23, 2019.

Trustees present were: Kevin Logan, Bill Croy, Frank Czyzewski, Bob Pierson, Richard Rudolphi, Neil Gould, Danny Schnepfer and Frank Herman.

Also present were: Luke Johnson, CEO, and Tyra Cycholl, Attorney for the Board. Greg Smith was absent. The meeting was opened by Bob Pierson, who presided and Bill Croy, Vice President, acted as acting secretary thereof.

The invocation was given by Bill Croy, 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.

**APPROVED**, the Consent Agenda including the following:

- **APPROVED**, the prior meeting minutes.
- **APPROVED**, the Special Meeting Minutes;
- **APPROVED**, (a) to admit to membership those 12 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 13 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 Federated Report;
- **REVIEWED**, the Clay Power Factor;
- **REVIEWED**, the November Compliance Exchange;
- **REVIEWED**, the CRC Report from the Board.

**APPROVED**, the Delegate and Alternate List as follows:

	DELEGATE	ALTERNATE
NRECA	Bob Pierson	Bill Croy
NRTC	Luke Johnson	Bill Croy
CFC	Kevin Logan	Bob Pierson
SIPC	Greg Smith, Richard Rudolphi, Frank Herman	Kevin Logan, nominated
CRC	Luke Johnson	
AIEC	Bob Pierson	Bill Croy
AIEC Director	Kevin Logan	Bob Pierson
NRECA Regional Mtg.	Bob Pierson	Kevin Logan
Certification for NRECA	Bob Pierson	Kevin Logan
NCSC	Luke Johnson	Kevin Logan

**APPROVED**, the December write offs.

**APPROVED**, deceased estates capital credit allocations.

**APPROVED**, the Resolution as presented to sponsor the REDLG loan for Wabash Communications.

**REVIEWED** and **DISCUSSED**, policy 600-2.

**APPROVED**, revising policy 600-2 to grandfather the existing solar members for a five-year period from the time of commission.

**WERE UPDATED**, on the CVC Strategic Planning.

**WERE REMINDED** of the CFC Workshop to be held February 6-7.

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

**REVIEWED** and **DISCUSSED**, the SIPC WDR Adjustment.

**APPROVED**, the waiver for 90 days for the SIPC notification.

**APPROVED**, the SIPC WDR Resolution as presented.

**HEARD**, a report by Kevin Logan regarding the AIEC Meeting.

**WERE REMINDED** of the CCD Strategic Planning on Feb. 19.

**HEARD** the 2020 Budget Preview as to the following:

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

**APPROVED**, the 2020 budget as presented.

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

- November 2019 Form 7;
- November 2019 Balance Sheet;
- November 2019 Cash Flow;
- SIPC Power Delivered in November 2019 dated December 6, 2019;
  - November 2019 Power Factor;
  - November Power Cost Adder;
- November Line Loss;
- Monthly Reconciliation;
- Federated Check.

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

**REVIEWED**, the Monday morning safety meeting sheet dated December 16, 2019.

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

- Operations Report Year End;
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings

**REVIEWED**, the Operations Report Year End.

**REVIEWED**, the Communications Report.

**WERE REMINDED**, of upcoming meetings on January 27, 2020, February 24, 2020, and March 23, 2020 at 1 p.m. in the Clay Board Room.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 3:10 p.m.