

# 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

**A**pril 13 is Lineworker Appreciation Day. Clay Electric Co-operative is blessed to have some of the most exceptional men working for us that I've had the privilege of knowing. I worked hand in hand with our crews in my career and know firsthand just how much our linemen believe in the cooperative model. Our crews willingly give up time with their families and loved ones to answer the call when

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. Avoid downed lines and poles and never assume a line is dead. **13913-001** 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

We talk a lot about solar and other renewable energy options available to our members. It's a new and 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 you have any questions about what kind of builds work in our area. We encourage any of our members interested in a solar build, or information on ways to improve their home's efficiency to lower cost, to contact us before starting any building project. With so many moving parts, it's always best to make sure you understand the full impact and potential pitfalls of any major construction project.

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!

LINeworkERS KNOW HOW TO GET THE JOB DONE.

LET'S THANK THEM FOR POWERING OUR LIVES.

Lineworker Appreciation Day  
April 13, 2020

our members are out of power. I would like to thank all our linemen and clearance crews for their dedication to our members. I encourage all our members to take a moment to thank a lineman as well.

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 updated on storm and outage information in our service area.



Luke Johnson  
CEO



## CO-OP CONNECTIONS CORNER



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.

**12034-001** 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](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.



Memorial Lane Flowers & Gifts is a family owned business that provides fresh and silk arrangements, memorial flowers, candles, jewelry, sympathy gifts and more to our area. They subliminate personal items such as banners, keychains, awards, blankets and much more. They are located at 223 E North Avenue in Flora, IL. Give them a call at 618-662-2176 or stop by and see them Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. or Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

*Our office will be closed Friday, April 10 in observance of Good Friday.*

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This spring, consider using a rain barrel to save energy. Rain barrels capture rainwater from a roof that can be used later for watering your lawn, garden or indoor plants.



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.

# The power of oxygen

## Being prepared for outages and other emergencies

If you or someone you know uses supplemental oxygen for a health condition, it is important to be prepared in case of an outage or other emergency. It is common to have an oxygen concentrator in the home to eliminate the need for bulky and inconvenient oxygen tanks. A noticeable downside, however, is the need for electrical power. This dependence could turn a routine power issue into a life-threatening situation. It is important to know your condition and be prepared.

The most important thing an oxygen user needs to know is their level of dependence. Supplemental oxygen use is common for issues ranging from sleep apnea to lung cancer. An oxygen user needs to consider if their condition needs constant oxygen or supplemental oxygen at certain parts of the day. It's important to know how long it is safe to be without oxygen and plan accordingly.

Clay Electric Co-operative is proud of the reliability of its system, but outages happen. If 24/7 oxygen use is a medical requirement, a plan needs to be in place should the power go out. So, what do you need to do?

### Inform your power provider.

Clay Electric Co-operative keeps files on known oxygen users and other members with medical conditions that need to be a priority during an outage situation. In the event of a major outage, crews will attempt to prioritize restoration of members with existing medical issues. We cannot do this if we do not know about the medical need.

### Plan for a back-up.

Many oxygen concentrators have battery backups. Having extra charged batteries around is a simple way to get through the more routine short outages that happen from time to time. Know how long your

concentrator can run on battery backup so you can plan accordingly.

Installing an electric generator has many positives for our members. Maintaining power during an outage situation with a properly installed generator backup lets our members continue with their lives uninterrupted. Emergency generators come in many shapes and sizes with many features. **8704-001** Understanding how your generator functions and maintaining it is as important as having it. If the power goes off and there's no gas in the generator, you might as well not have one.

The simplest backup plan is to have a supply of oxygen tanks. Many individuals that use oxygen already have a few for travel. Having a few filled oxygen tanks can get you through most short-term outages. Medical gases are very stable, so the FDA does not require they be labeled with expiration dates. It's important, however, to check the gauge and valve regularly to make sure there is no damage to the mechanism or leaks. Most medical supply companies will label tanks with how many minutes they will last, if your tanks aren't labeled this way, it is encouraged that you mark the tank yourself. Always remember that oxygen is a flammable gas and must be kept away from open flames, gas and smoke.

### Be ready to make medical adjustments.

While not optimal, in an emergency it might be necessary to reduce your oxygen flow rate to increase the longevity of your supply. You should talk to your doctor

about what is safe for you to do in an emergency. If you need to conserve oxygen, it is important to stay calm and reduce strenuous activity as much as possible.

### Find a support team.

If you have a diagnosis that makes you reliant on medical devices, you should have a group of people to call should an emergency arise. They can be family, friends, co-workers, or neighbors so long as they are willing to lend a hand. They should be nearby so they can get to you quickly if the need arises.



You should plan to be able to move if needed. Have a list of what you need to take with you should you have to go. Travel oxygen, medications, etc. It's also a good idea to have written instructions on how to operate your oxygen device should someone helping you need to set it up.

Your cooperative is dedicated to its membership. As your trusted energy partner, we need to know if you need priority power restoration. **Please contact Clay Electric Co-operative if you are oxygen dependent or otherwise have a medical diagnosis that requires powered machinery to treat. Your safety is our number one priority.**

# Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

## February 21, 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 1:00 o'clock p.m. on Friday, Feb. 21, 2020.

Trustees present were: Kevin Logan, Bill Croy, Frank Czyzewski, Bob Pierson, Richard Rudolphi, Neil Gould, Danny Schnepfer, Greg Smith, and Frank Herman. Also present were: Luke Johnson, CEO, and Tyra Cycholl, Attorney for the Board. 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 Neil Gould.

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**, (a) to admit to membership those 12 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 11 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 Insurance Certificates;
- **REVIEWED**, the February Compliance Exchange.

**APPROVED**, the Deceased Estates

**REVIEWED** and **DISCUSSED**, the line extension policy.

**APPROVED**, the CFC Quarterly Loan Payment.

**REVIEWED**, the NRECA Annual Meeting Notice.

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

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

**WERE REMINDED** of the Lobby Day in Springfield March 18.

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

**WERE REMINDED**, of the Legislative Conference April 28-29, 2020.

At 1:29 p.m. **APPROVED**, entering into Executive Session.

At 1:48 p.m., **APPROVED**, exiting Executive Session and returning to Open Session.

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

- January 2019 Form 7;
- January 2019 Balance Sheet;
- January 2019 Cash Flow;
- SIPC Power Delivered in January 2020 dated Feb. 7, 2020;
- December Line Loss;
- Monthly Reconciliation;
- Clay Electric Usage;
- CRC Check.

**HEARD**, a Safety Report for the month of February.

**REVIEWED**, the Monday

morning safety meeting sheet dated Feb. 17, 2020.

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

- Cost of Service Study;
- Operations Report;
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings

**REVIEWED** and **DISCUSSED**, the Cost of Service Study.

**REVIEWED**, the Operations Report.

**REVIEWED**, the Communications Report. **WERE INFORMED**, we are sending eight students to Springfield and three to Washington, D.C.

**REVIEWED**, the Rate 151 Explanation Handout.

**WERE REMINDED**, of upcoming meetings on March 23, 2020 at 7 p.m., May 4, 2020, and May 26, 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 2:40 p.m.

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

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[facebook.com/cecicoop](https://facebook.com/cecicoop)

