

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



Luke Johnson
CEO

Visiting Springfield with our Youth Day participants is one of my favorite days of the year. Clay Electric Co-operative was able to send 10 students from among the junior classes in the area high schools for this year's Youth Day in Springfield. Our kids were able to meet with Representative Darren Bailey and Senator Dale Righter as well as tour the many sites and historic landmarks of our state capital. I am proud of all our students who took the long day in stride and seized the opportunity. After a difficult selection process, I am happy to announce three outstanding area young people will be representing our community during the Youth to Washington Tour. Shelby Cailteux, Malorie Craig and Sydney Rudolphi were selected by our AIEC interviewers to represent us in Washington, D.C. June 14–21. I'm positive they will do us proud.

We are starting a new column this month. Our Co-op Connections Corner will spotlight local businesses that partner with us to give our membership discounts on goods and services. Our Co-op Connections Card has gone digital, with a new app available on Apple and Android devices. With the new app, you can search for local discounts, book hotel and concert reservations through iBennie, receive prescription discounts, earn cash

back and more! We encourage our members to download the app and start saving today. If you are a local business that would like to take part in this free program, please email us at CoopConnections@ceci.coop. We look forward to working with you!

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. 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. **13685-001**

With sunny days on the horizon, I'd like to take a moment to mention 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. With different laws and subsidies in flux at the state level, there are lots of questions floating around. 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. 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!



Celebrate safely with party balloons

Most people associate balloons with special occasions, celebrations and joy. However, without proper precautions, a simple party supply can cause power outages and even explosions. Metallic balloons, if accidentally or purposely released, can cause big problems if they make contact with overhead power lines or substation equipment. Here are some tips on the proper handling and disposal of these balloons.

“The metalized nylon in these balloons makes them good conductors of electricity,” explains Matt Conklin, operations manager and safety coordinator at Clay Electric Co-operative. “If these balloons come into contact with electrical equipment, they can cause power outages, fires and injuries.”

In September 2016, metallic balloons made contact with a power line in Arcata, Calif. during a high school homecoming parade. A handful of balloons that were accidentally released during the parade caused the transformer to explode and the pole to fall to the ground. Power was lost to almost 3,000 consumers in the nearby area for several hours.

“Many safety experts recommend metallic over latex balloons because they are less of a choking hazard.



However, using metallic balloons improperly can pose other safety hazards,” explains Molly Hall, director of the Safe Electricity program. “Fortunately, with a few simple precautions, metallic balloons can be used without any problems.”

Metallic balloons are filled with helium and are made of a type of nylon with a thin external metal coating. The metal coating can conduct electricity. If released, metallic balloons can come into contact with overhead power lines or electrical substations and can cause power outages and fires.

In order to prevent risks when celebrating outdoors, tie down your balloons. It is also a good idea to use a weight to keep them secured.

Never tie a metallic ribbon on your balloon, and never tie a metallic

balloon to a child’s arm. These situations both can pose electrical hazards.

If a metallic balloon gets caught in overhead wires or substation equipment, do not try to retrieve it. Call your local electric utility for assistance.

After celebrations have ended, make sure that these balloons are disposed of properly. Puncture a hole in your balloon and deflate it so it cannot float away after disposal. Consider creatively reusing metallic balloons as gift wrap, scrapbooking or a craft project. **12100-001**

“When planning your next outdoor celebration, take precautions with metallic balloons,” advises Conklin. “Never intentionally release metallic balloons in the air and take extra care that your balloons remain secure.”

To learn more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

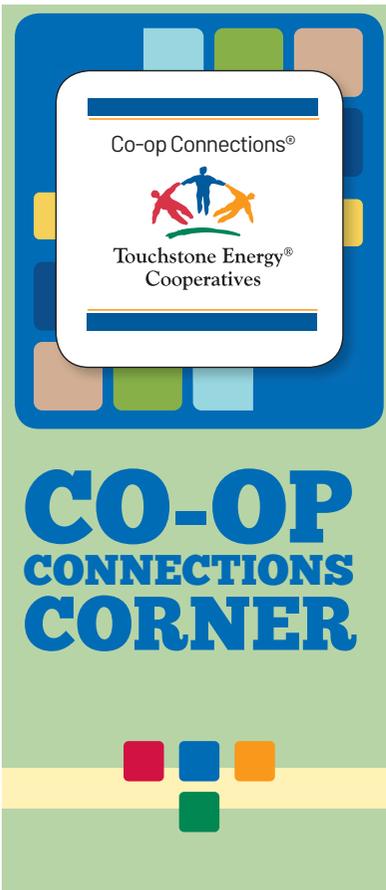
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Office hours:
7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
www.ceci.coop
www.facebook.com/ceci.coop





Co-op Connections®

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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. 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. **9783-001**

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 monthly newsletter 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.



Shirt Tales has provided our service area with high quality screen-printing and embroidery services for years. Their cost-effective designs can be placed on dress or work shirts, jackets, hats and more. It's the perfect solution for your personal or business branding needs. Shirt Tales is located at 134 W. North Avenue in Flora, IL. Visit them online at shirt-tales.net or find them in the Co-op Connections app! By showing your Co-op Connections app, you can get 10 percent off your order up to \$100.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the A/C to run longer than necessary.

Source: energy.gov



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.

3946-001
**April
Winner!**



**The cooperative office
will be closed on Monday,
May 27 in observance
of Memorial Day.**

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

April 1, 2019

The regular meeting of the board of trustees of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the CECI headquarters, Flora, Illinois beginning at 1:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, April 1, 2019.

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Kevin Logan, Bill Croy, Bob Pierson, Richard Rudolphi, Neil Gould, Danny Schnepfer, Greg Smith and Frank Herman. Also present were: Luke Johnson, CEO; Tyra Cycholl, attorney for the board and Earl Ridlen III, auditor. The meeting was opened by Richard Rudolphi, who presided, and Bob Pierson, secretary, acted as secretary thereof.

The invocation was given by Greg Smith.

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.

Moved the audit report to later in the meeting, upon arrival of Auditor.

APPROVED, removing the credit card statement.

DISCUSSED, the credit card statement. Luke Johnson will further investigate the discussed charges.

APPROVED, the consent agenda including the following:

- (a) to admit to membership those 13 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;
- **REVIEWED**, the attorney retainer;
- **APPROVED** the insurance certificates;

■ **REVIEWED** the account summary report;

■ **REVIEWED**, the Federated member update;

■ **REVIEWED**, the AIEC regulatory compliance.

APPROVED the credit card statement.

APPROVED, letting the patronage balance for NISC stay as a patronage balance. Luke Johnson to decline the NISC offer to cash out the patronage.

APPROVED, Luke Johnson as the CRC voting delegate.

APPROVED, the Clay farming contract.

APPROVED, the deceased estates.

At 1:30 p.m., Earl Ridlen III entered the meeting.

HEARD, a report from the auditor. **DISCUSSED**, the audit report with the auditor.

At 2 p.m., Earl Ridlen III left the meeting.

APPROVED, the audit report as presented by the auditor.

APPROVED, the policy updates on:

- Policy 200-3;
- Policy 300-1;
- Policy 300-2;
- Policy 300-4.

WERE REMINDED, the Legislative Conference is April 28-30 in Washington, D.C.

REVIEWED, the CFC line of credit and rates.

HEARD, a report from Frank Herman regarding the SIPC meeting.

HEARD, a report by Kevin Logan of the AIEC meeting.

REVIEWED the strategic planning sessions to be held April 10 and 11.

APPROVED, sending 1-2 employees to the SEDC Users Conference.

WERE INFORMED, of the Aces Conference on May 30-31.

CONGRATULATED, Frank Herman on being awarded a Gold Certificate as director.

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

- December 2018 Form 7;
- February 2019 Form 7;
- February 2019 Balance Sheet;
- February 2019 Cash Flow;
- SIPC Power Delivered in February 2019 dated March 8, 2019;
- February 2019 Power Factor;
- February Power Cost Adder;
- LMR credits.
- February line loss;
- Monthly reconciliation.

HEARD, a general safety report for the month of February 2019.

REVIEWED, the Monday morning safety meeting sheet dated March 25, 2019.

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

- March operations report;
- Work order review;
- Communications Report;
- CFPC presentation;
- SEDC capital credit check;
- Federated capital credit check;
- Upcoming meetings

REVIEWED, the March operations report.

REVIEWED, the communications report.

WERE REMINDED, of upcoming meetings on April 22, 2019 at 7 p.m. at the Clay board room; Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 7 p.m. due to the Memorial Day holiday; June 24, 2019 at 7 p.m.; Strategic Planning on April 10 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and April 11 from 8 a.m. – noon.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was declared adjourned at 3:30 p.m.