

# Clay ELECTRIC News

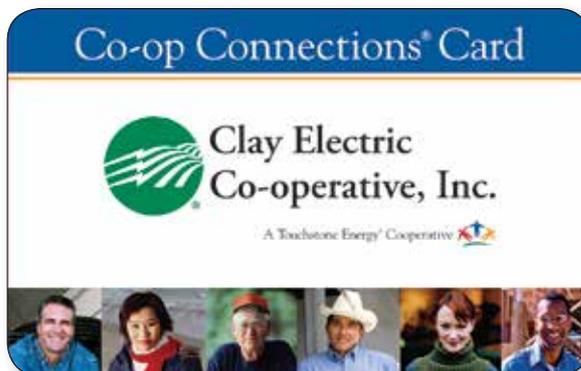
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

**W**e have had a good response to our Co-op Connections program, but it can always be better. I invite you to check out our Co-op Connections Corner each month as we 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](mailto:CoopConnections@ceci.coop). We look forward to working with you!

With the sun starting to show



itself more often, we've received more questions on solar installations. Our state has many programs that incentivize renewable energy and green initiatives. As your cooperative, it is our business to help you get the best benefit you can from any energy endeavor. If you have been approached by a renewable energy company, have been researching renewables or simply have questions, please don't hesitate to call us. We are here for our membership to help you find the best answers to your

situation. We are happy to work with solar installers on member-owned generation systems. The most important thing I can stress to you, our members, is that communication is key. Please let us answer questions and help you make the best decision for you.

As you flip through your center section, 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

## 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.



Co-op Connections®

Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperatives

# 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. **12482-001**

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 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.



Oh Snap! Photography is a local photography business specializing in onsite child, young adult, and family photography. Oh Snap! has packages available for individuals and small groups and will travel within the county to fit your needs.

Contact Oh Snap! Photography by calling 618-843-9985 or email [OhSnapPhotoIL@gmail.com](mailto:OhSnapPhotoIL@gmail.com). For more information, check out their website at [OhSnapPhotoIL.com](http://OhSnapPhotoIL.com) or at [facebook.com/OhSnapPhotoIL](https://facebook.com/OhSnapPhotoIL).

# FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

Fireworks and the Fourth of July go hand-in-hand, and we want you to have a safe, fun-filled celebration! About two-thirds of all fireworks-related injuries occur between June 16 and July 16, so keep these safety tips in mind:



- ★ Make sure fireworks are legal in your community before using them.
- ★ Never buy professional-grade fireworks. They are not designed for safe consumer use.
- ★ Keep small children a safe distance from all fireworks including sparklers which can burn at temperatures in excess of 2,000 degrees.
- ★ Never reignite or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Keep a bucket of water or garden hose nearby to thoroughly soak duds before throwing them away.
- ★ Keep pets indoors and away from fireworks to avoid contact injuries or noise reactions.

# Prepare your home to beat the heat this summer

## Stay cool while spending less

**D**uring the sweltering summer months people nationwide crank up their air conditioners in an effort to stay cool. In the struggling economy, the Energy Education Council wants everyone to get the most for their energy dollars. Be sure your house is ready to beat the heat this year by following a few guidelines. “Most of these suggestions require little effort or cost,” Energy Education Council Director Molly Hall said. “The investment is well worth it with added comfort and savings.”

- Check the insulation. According to EnergyStar insulation is usually measured using the R-Value. R-Value is a measure of insulation's ability to resist heat traveling through it. The higher the R-Value, the more effective it will be to beat the heat. The level of insulation recommended for your area can be found at EnergyStar.gov. If you are lacking the recommended insulation, you can add more right on top of the old insulation. However, don't put a vapor barrier between the layers. Be sure the insulation doesn't block vents or cover exhaust fans.

### 9361-001

- Ventilate the attic. When the outside temperature is in the 90s, your attic can easily reach 140 degrees. Adequately sized vents and/or an attic fan can help keep hot air from building up.
  - Get the air conditioner ready. Shut off power to the unit before cleaning it. On the inside, wash or vacuum cleanable filters; replace disposable ones. Outside, clear leaves and other debris away from the condensing unit. Hose off any accumulated dirt.
  - Put a timer or programmable thermostat on your air conditioner. Leave it on a higher temperature while you're away, and set it to cool the house half an hour before you return home.
  - Install awnings over windows exposed to direct sunlight.
- Consider installing ceiling fans. On moderately warm days, fans can circulate enough air to keep you comfortable without air conditioning. Even on hotter days when you use the air conditioner, you can set your thermostat higher and save.



“Even in summer, you don't have to sacrifice comfort to stay within your budget,” Hall said. “Energy Education Council recommends a few easily achieved cost saving tips.”

- Open windows and doors and let outside air cool your house on moderate days, and be sure to keep them closed when you're operating the air conditioner.
- Avoid unnecessary trips in and out of the house, especially on the most sultry days. Heat and humidity come in each time you open the door.
- Keep the sun out of your house. Close blinds, shades or draperies during the hottest part of the day. Consider planting fast-growing trees and shrubs near your home but away from power line, to provide shade.
- Set lamps, TV sets, and other heat-producing devices away from the air conditioner thermostat. Heat from the lamp could cause the thermostat to read higher temperature and keep the air conditioner running more than necessary.

“One secret to getting the best efficiency from your air conditioner is to be sure the maximum amount of air moves across the coils,” Hall said. “Make sure air can flow freely over the inside and outside coils.”

Shut off power to the unit before cleaning it. Outside, clear away leaves and debris. Inside, clean or replace filters. If you can reach the fan blades, be sure the power is turned off and then dust them - if they're filled with lint they can't push as much air. If your air conditioner doesn't give you as much cooling as it has in the past, call a cooling professional to inspect and tune it up.

If you're shopping for a new unit, check the efficiency rating, or SEER. The higher the SEER number, the more efficient the air conditioner. Consider buying an Energy Star approved unit, which uses around 14 percent less energy than traditional air conditioning units for central air and at least 10 percent less for room units. Energy Star and local utilities are offering many incentives to upgrade appliances and insulation this year. Be sure to visit [www.EnergyStar.gov/taxcredits](http://www.EnergyStar.gov/taxcredits) and contact your local utility for more information.

“Like a car that gives you more miles per gallon, an air conditioner with a higher SEER gives you more cooling comfort for each energy dollar,” Hall said.

For more information, visit: [energyeducationcouncil.org](http://energyeducationcouncil.org).

# Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

May 28, 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 7:00 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, May 28, 2019.

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Kevin Logan, Bill Croy, 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. Collin Moseley was a guest. The meeting was opened by Richard Rudolphi, who presided and Bob Pierson, Secretary, acted as secretary thereof.

The invocation was given by Richard Rudolphi, followed by the pledge of allegiance. **14471-001**

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 Collin Moseley regarding the Youth to Washington experience. Thereafter at 7:10 p.m. Collin Moseley left the meeting.

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

- **APPROVED**, the prior meeting minutes;
- (a) to admit to membership those 14 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 17 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.

**WERE INFORMED**,

Windstream has filed Bankruptcy. **APPROVED**, Policy 100-2 as presented.

**APPROVED**, Policy 800-11 as presented.

**APPROVED**, Policy 800-12 as presented.

**APPROVED**, Policy 800-13 as presented.

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

**REVIEWED**, the Strategic Plan.

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

**REVIEWED**, the PSCG news article.

**WERE INFORMED**, SIPC did a flyover report.

**HEARD**, a report from Luke Johnson regarding the SIPC managers meeting.

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

**REVIEWED**, the invitation to the Family Event at the AIEC Annual Meeting.

**WERE INFORMED**, of the Aces Conference Agenda with the meeting to be held on May 30-31.

**APPROVED**, entering Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.

**APPROVED**, exiting Executive Session at 8:31 p.m. and returning to Regular Session.

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

- April 2019 Form 7;
- April 2019 Balance Sheet;
- April 2019 Cash Flow;
- SIPC Power Delivered in April 2019 dated May 8, 2019;
  - April 2019 Power Factor;
  - April Power Cost Adder;
  - LMR Credits.

■ April Line Loss;

■ Monthly Reconciliation.

**HEARD**, a General Safety Report for the month of April 2019.

**REVIEWED**, the Monday morning safety meeting sheet dated May 20, 2019.

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

- March Operations Report;
- Apprentice to URD School;
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings

**REVIEWED**, the April Operations Report.

**WERE INFORMED**, an apprentice completed the URD School at AIEC.

**REVIEWED**, the Communications Report.

**WERE REMINDED**, of upcoming meetings on June 24, 2019, July 22, 2019, and Aug. 26, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Clay Board Room and the Safety Committee Meeting on June 11, 2019 at 11:30 a.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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

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Office hours:  
7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

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