

# 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

“Cooperation Among Cooperatives” is one of the seven cooperative principles. It allows us to have a stronger response to emergencies than we could ever have individually. When your cooperative is in trouble, Clay Electric can call on aid from cooperatives all over the nation. When another cooperative is in trouble, we send help to them. Through hurricanes, ice storms and all kinds of emergencies, our linemen have sacrificed time with their families to travel where help is needed most. It has been a long time since we’ve needed to call in mutual aid, and I hope that time continues getting longer and longer, but it is reassuring to know that cooperatives around the nation stand ready to help us as we’ve helped them.

Cooperation extends beyond storm restoration and natural disasters. By joining together, we amplify our voices. We are currently working hard to keep energy affordable in Illinois by opposing legislation that would close Illinois power plants before the debts for their construction are even paid. We support green energy initiatives, at a pace that our members can afford. **10794-001** We continue to ask our membership to go to [VoicesForCooperativePower.com/Illinois/](http://VoicesForCooperativePower.com/Illinois/) and let your elected officials know that increasing your electric bill by 20-25 percent is not the way to



make progress toward a better energy future in Illinois.

Clay Electric has been cooperating locally with Wabash Communications Co-op, helping them secure financing with the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program for their new headquarters. The REDLG program allows us to act as a passthrough for government funding for projects in rural areas that benefit the community. We were happy to assist Wabash in the construction of their new headquarters and be a part of bringing better, more

efficient, service to their members.

As always, keep a lookout for your member number in the center section of this magazine. 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



## Tips for a safe harvest

**A**griculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers. In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

The hard work and exhaustive labor are tough but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous, even deadly, when farming near electrical equipment.

Every year, we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery. If you're preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind.

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.

- Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field. **8633-003**
- If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact 9-1-1 immediately and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it), and hop away to safety.
- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

Sept. 19-25 is National Farm Health and Safety Week but practicing safety on the farm year-round yields positive results. We hope you never find yourself in a situation where farming equipment contacts power lines or poles, but if you do, we hope you'll remember these safety tips.





# USING A GENERATOR?

## 8 DANGEROUS MISTAKES PEOPLE MAKE



### 1 IN ENCLOSED SPACES

Always use it in a well-ventilated area.



### 2 NEAR WINDOWS OR DOORS

Place it at least 20 feet away from windows and doors.



### 3 IN A GARAGE

Even if the door is up, never use a generator in a garage.



### 4 IN THE ELEMENTS

Run it on a dry surface under a canopy-like structure (but not in a carport).



### 5 PLUGGED INTO A WALL OUTLET

This can be deadly to you, family members, neighbors or utility workers.



### 6 WITH THE WRONG EXTENSION CORD

Use a properly rated cord to plug appliances into a generator.



### 7 WITHOUT CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) TESTERS

CO detectors should be on every level of your home (test them monthly).



### 8 IN DISREPAIR

Make sure your generator is well-maintained and in good working order.



Safe Electricity.org\*

# Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

July 26, 2021

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the Clay Electric Cooperative Headquarters, Flora, Illinois beginning at 7:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, July 26, 2021.

Trustees present were: Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Bill Croy, Neil Gould, Richard Rudolphi, Frank Czyzewski, Frank Herman, Josh Schnepfer and Evan Smith. Also present were: Luke Johnson, CEO, Adam McKnight, Member Service Manager, and Bart Swisher, CECI IT administrator. The meeting was opened by Bob Pierson, who presided and Neil Gould, acted as secretary thereof.

The invocation was given by Niel Gould and was 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**, a report on CECI's cyber security programs and preparedness from Bart Swisher, whereafter Bart Swisher left the meeting.

**REVIEWED** and **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 12 former members shown on the Manager's Report since the last such review by the Board, said members no longer taking service;
- **REVIEWED**, the Work Orders;
- **REVIEWED**, the Disbursements;
- **REVIEWED**, the Credit Card Statements;

■ **REVIEWED**, the Attorney Retainer;

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

■ **REVIEWED**, the NRECA Report from the Board.

**DISCUSSED**, changing language to conform with best practices for documented minutes.

**HEARD**, a grace period is in place for the Director Gold program due to COVID-related class cancellations.

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

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

**WERE REMINDED**, the Board Training class BLC 905 Assessing Governance will be held on July 28, 2021. **10874-002**

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

- Monthly Reconciliation;
- SIPC Power Delivered in May 2021;
- May 2021 Cash Flow;
- Line Loss;
- May 2021 Form 7;
- May 2021 Balance Sheet.

**DISCUSSED**, options for changes to collection practices to recoup bad debt.

**REVIEWED** the Safety Report and Safety Committee Quarterly Report.

**REVIEWED**, the Monday morning Safety meeting held July 19, 2021.

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

- Operations Report;
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings.

**REVIEWED**, the Operations Report.

**DISCUSSED** and **APPROVED**, the selling of CECI's old chipper via sealed bids. Chipper shall be sold as-is with a right of refusal.

**REVIEWED**, the Communications Report and the

informative bill insert distributed to the membership in their July bills.

**WERE REMINDED**, of upcoming meetings on, Aug. 30, 2021 and Sept. 27, 2021 at 7 p.m. in the Clay Board Room. Annual Meeting to be held Aug. 26, 2021.

**REVIEWED**, thank you cards from Neil Gould Family and North Clay Girls Basketball team.

In New Business, **WERE INFORMED**, Clay Title Company is working with a surveyor on the land purchase around the Xenia Substation.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



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.

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