

Clay Electric News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

7784 Old Hwy. 50 ■ P.O. Box 517 ■ Flora, Illinois 62839 ■ www.cecicoop ■ 618/662-2171 ■ 800/582-9012

From the Manager

I am always thankful for the dedicated service our staff provides to our members. The cooperative business model is built for the benefit of all the people we serve, not to benefit stockholders and pile up profits. The men and women of Clay Electric Co-operative have bought in to the culture of service and work each day for you. When the call for mutual aid assistance came in after Hurricane Laura hit Louisiana, our linemen and line clearance crews proved their commitment to not only our members, but the members of our sister cooperatives around the country.

I know firsthand that working these massive storms is grueling work. Seventeen-hour days for weeks at a time to try and restore the grid to bring power to thousands of households. **5019-001** The reward is bringing power and safety back to people. There is nothing more satisfying than energizing a line and

watching the lights come on for a family that had been living in darkness until the work could get done. Thank a lineman, they are always there for you.

I would like to remind you that your 76th Annual Meeting has been rescheduled and will be held this month, Oct. 22. The meeting will be held digitally on Facebook in our Member's Only group. You can join the Member's Only group by applying at facebook.com/groups/cecilmembers and providing your name and member number. A teleconference number or Zoom meeting will be made available for members who are unable to access Facebook. Please call our office at 618-662-2171 for more information.

Digital attendance will earn you a \$10 bill credit and a chance to enter prize drawings to follow the meeting. If you turn to page 13 in this issue of Illinois Country Living, you will find a scholarship application.

This year we will be drawing three \$500 scholarships for the children of Clay Electric members that are part of the graduating class of 2020. Application forms can be mailed to PO Box 517, Flora, IL 62839, or brought into the office. Applications must be received by Oct. 16 to be entered into the drawing.

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

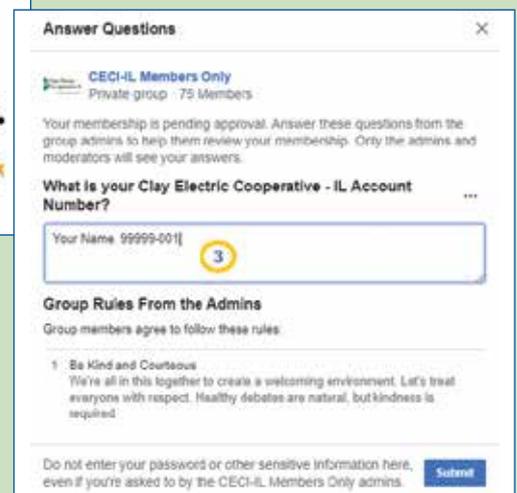


Attend our 76th Annual Meeting Remotely!
October 22, 2020 on Facebook Live

Join our Member's Only group at facebook.com/groups/cecilmembers

Earn a \$10 bill credit for attendance.

If you would prefer to use Zoom or call in by phone, please call the office at 618-662-2171 and let our staff know in advance.



Power On: October is National Co-op Month

Clay Electric Co-operative lives by its mission statement “To provide safe, reliable, and exceptional service to our member owners.” Because we are a co-op, our goal is to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our local community—and this mission has never been more critical than in recent months.

One of the seven principles that guides all co-ops is “concern for community.” This principle is the essential DNA of Clay Electric Co-operative, and it sets us apart from other electric utilities.

October is National Co-op Month, and electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we “Power On.” Through storms and pandemics, we recognize the essential role we play in serving our community.

Who would have fathomed in March, that the COVID-19 virus would amount to a test of our community and our nation? The changing circumstances due to the pandemic have created both challenges and opportunities. Over the past several months, we have all been challenged to

operate differently, and Clay Electric Co-operative has stepped up to help our members.

As an essential service, and to ensure reliability of your power supply, we modified our operations to safeguard business continuity. Our line crews and other employees began working on staggered schedules to maintain separation. Some

their electric bills, we waived late fees and worked with those hardest hit to make special payment arrangements. We exist to benefit our members and have done all we can to keep their lights on.

I tell you about all these efforts not to boast, but to explain how much we care about this community—because we live here too.

Then. Now. Always.
We're proud to power your life.
October is National Co-op Month.



#PowerOn

staff worked remotely. In the office, we limited and modified meetings and gatherings to allow for safe separation. **12292-002** We also adjusted our walk-in office availability and in-person service calls to ensure the health and safety of our employees and our valued members.

For our members impacted by COVID-19 who needed help with

While the challenges caused by COVID-19 have been daunting, we are heartened to see how everyone is pulling together.

In 1944, Clay Electric Co-operative was built by the community to serve the community, and that is what we will continue to do – Power On.

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.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR HUNTERS

This hunting season, we encourage all members to be aware of electrical equipment and take necessary precautions while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors.



Take notice of posted warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.



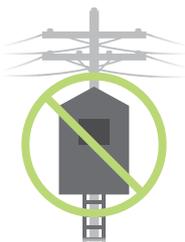
Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.



Know where power lines and equipment are located on the land where you hunt.



Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.



Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.



Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Any non-electrical equipment attached to a pole can pose an obstruction and serious hazards to our line crews.

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

August 24, 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 7:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, August 24, 2020.

Trustees present were Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Bill Croy, Danny Schnepfer, Greg Smith, Neil Gould, Richard Rudolphi, Frank Czyzewski and Frank Herman. Also present were Luke Johnson, CEO and Tyra Cycholl, Attorney for the Board. **14048-001** 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 Frank Czyzewski.

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 18 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;
- **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 from the Board;

■ **REVIEWED**, the Regulatory Compliance Exchange Report.

APPROVED, the two COVID-19 Deferred Payment Agreements.

APPROVED, the deceased estates.

APPROVED, the Agreement for Purchase of Power for Josh Schnepfer. Danny Schnepfer abstained from this vote.

APPROVED, Policy 900-1 as presented.

REVIEWED, the Quarterly Loan Payment to CFC.

REVIEWED, the CFC Board Report.

HEARD, that the Region meetings will be held virtually.

HEARD, the NRECA 2021 Annual Meeting in San Diego is canceled, but will be held virtually.

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

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

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

- July 2020 Form 7;
- July 2020 Balance Sheet;
- July 2020 Cash Flow;
- SIPC Power Delivered in June 2020 dated Aug. 7, 2020;
- June Line Loss;
- Monthly Reconciliation;

HEARD, a Safety Report for the month of May.

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

- Clay Annual Meeting;
- Operations Report;
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings.

REVIEWED and **DISCUSSED**, the Special Digital Annual Meeting postponement to Oct. 22 due to COVID-19.

REVIEWED, the Communications Report.

WERE REMINDED, of upcoming meetings on, Sept. 28, 2020, Oct. 26, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the Clay Board Room and Nov. 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 8:25 p.m.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

The average household owns 24 electronic products, which account for roughly 12% of home energy use. When shopping for electronics, consider purchasing ENERGY STAR®-certified products, which can be 70% more efficient than conventional models.

Source: energystar.gov



Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



7784 Old Hwy. 50,
P.O. Box 517,
Flora, Illinois 62839
618-662-2171
800-582-9012

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

