

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

This holiday season our families would like to wish all our co-op family members a merry Christmas and happy New Year. As 2019 draws to a close, I'd like to thank all our members who make it possible for the cooperative to provide power across Clay County.

We look forward to a new decade of providing the safest, most reliable and most affordable power possible. With the changing political climate in Illinois, I'd like to take a moment to share some information about what we can see of the road ahead.

Illinois has declared that it wants to be a leader in green energy and the expansion of renewable electrical generation. Many pieces of legislation have been proposed to curb CO₂ emissions and move toward a clean energy grid in Illinois.

The push toward green energy has understandable repercussions for existing power plants. Coal and natural gas form the backbone of the grid. Coal-fired power production provides

a consistent amount of energy all day and all night. Many gas power facilities are dispatchable to provide extra power when needed during peak hours. Solar and wind generation are neither of those things. They can't be ramped up when demand is high, and they cannot produce power when the sun is down or the wind isn't blowing.

Solar and wind energy can be an important part of our energy portfolio, but technological limitations keep them from being an all-out answer. **13791-001** Removing coal-fired base generation from Illinois' energy portfolio will leave us relying on more expensive power options to cover our electricity needs. Nuclear is a carbon-free energy option that could cover base load, but it is expensive and not favored in the current political climate. Another option is purchasing power from neighboring states, which exports jobs and revenue out of Illinois and would likely also increase the cost of power.

We will continue to keep a close

eye on legislation as it moves forward, but the concerns around coal in Illinois are already having an effect. Coal plants will have a hard time staying open as legislation and environmental regulations target them more and more. We are seeing insurance companies raising rates on the coal industry and banking institutions not wanting to lend. As the costs go up and financing becomes harder to find, costs are likely to go up. Clay Electric will continue to do all it can to keep electricity affordable and reliable for our membership. However, as larger forces in the state and in the market start to work against the existing infrastructure, the impact on future rates remains unclear.



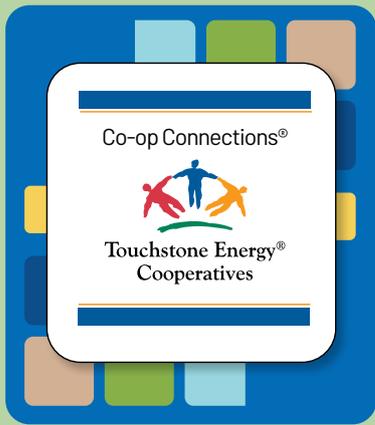
Luke Johnson
CEO

Our office will be closed
December 24 and 25
to celebrate Christmas.

We will also be closed
January 1, 2020
to celebrate
New Year's Day.

The Clay Electric Co-operative board and employees wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!





CO-OP CONNECTIONS CORNER



Clay Electric Co-operative is proud to announce the 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.

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. **11502-001** 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.



Deck the Halls **SAFELY**

- Use only lights, cords, animated displays, and decorations **rated for outdoor use**.
- When decorating outside, **look up and around** for power lines. **Never throw lights** or other decorations into trees near power lines.
- Keep ladders, equipment, and yourself **at least ten feet away** from power lines.
- Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)**.

For more holiday safety tips visit:



Stay safe and warm this winter

As the colder months hit, many of us are not prepared for Old Man Winter's potential wrath. Although our number one goal at Clay Electric Co-operative is to provide safe and reliable service — to do all we can to keep the power on — heavy snow and accumulating ice can easily bring tree limbs down onto power lines, cutting off power to homes and businesses.

The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) advises everyone to ready their home and cars, prepare for possible power outages, and to check on older adults. Be sure to have plenty of non-perishable food on hand and extra water stored in clean containers. If bad weather is forecasted, avoid travel, fully charge your cell phone and keep an up-to-date emergency kit on hand.

Specifically, the CDC recommends taking the following steps so that you will be more likely to stay safe and healthy when temperatures start to fall:

Winterize your home

- Install weather stripping, insulation and storm windows.
- Insulate water lines that run along exterior walls.
- Clean out gutters and repair roof leaks.

Check your heating systems

- Have your heating system serviced professionally to make sure that it is clean, working properly and ventilated to the outside.
- Inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys.

- Install a smoke detector. Test batteries monthly and replace them twice a year.
- Have a safe alternate heating source and alternate fuels available.

Prevent carbon monoxide (CO) emergencies

- Install a CO detector to alert you of the presence of the deadly, odorless, colorless gas. **8323-001** Check batteries when you change your clocks in the fall and spring.
- Learn symptoms of CO poisoning that include headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain and confusion.
- Keep grills, camp stoves and generators out of the house, basement and garage.
- Use fuel-powered generators at least 20 feet away from the house.
- Leave your home immediately if the CO detector goes off and call 9-1-1.

Prepare your car for cold weather

- Service the radiator and maintain anti-freeze level.
- Check tire tread or, if necessary, replace tires with all-weather or snow tires.
- Keep the gas tank full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.

- Use a wintertime formula in your windshield washer.

Prepare emergency kits

Avoid driving, but in case you get stuck in bad weather or become stranded, an emergency kit for your car should include: cell phone, portable charger, extra batteries, blankets, food, water, booster cables, flares, tire pump, a bag of sand or cat litter (for traction), maps, flashlight, battery-powered radio, a first-aid kit, and plastic bags (for sanitation).

Start with these items for an in-home emergency kit: a flashlight, a NOAA Weather Radio, extra batteries, a pre-charged portable phone power source, first-aid kit with extra medicine and baby items, if necessary.

Don't forget specific items you or members of your family might need during an emergency.

For additional winter prep tips, consult the CDC (cdc.gov), Red Cross (redcross.org) or ready.gov. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



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.

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

October 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 Monday, Oct. 28, 2019.

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

The invocation was given by Richard Rudolphi, 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.

APPROVED, the Consent Agenda including the following:

- **APPROVED**, the prior meeting minutes.
- **APPROVED**, (a) to admit to membership those 11 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 7 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;
- **APPROVED**, the Insurance Certificate;

- **REVIEWED**, the Account Summary Report;
- **REVIEWED**, the Federated Report;
- **REVIEWED**, the CFC Report.
- **REVIEWED**, the Clay Power Factor;
- **REVIEWED**, the October Compliance Exchange.

APPROVED, Luke Johnson as the RSI Delegate.

REVIEWED and **DISCUSSED**, the Solar Policy.

APPROVED, a member request to come to the Nov. 25, 2019 meeting. Said member or their representative will be allowed fifteen minutes to present their issues to the board.

REVIEWED, the CFC Line of Credit and CFC Capital Credit check.

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

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

HEARD, about upcoming training. At 7:31 p.m., **APPROVED**, entering into Executive Session.

At 7:55 p.m., **APPROVED** exiting Executive Session and returning to Regular Session.

APPROVED, a resolution regarding the CEO Luke Johnson's salary for 2020.

HEARD the 2020 Budget Preview as to the following:

- New AMI;
- Capital Items;
- Advertising;
- Capital Credits;
- Budget Forecast;
- Budget Sources of Funds and Capital Expenditures.

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

- September 2019 Form 7;
- September 2019 Balance Sheet;
- September 2019 Cash Flow;
- SIPC Power Delivered in September 2019 dated October 6, 2019;
- September 2019 Power Factor;
- September Power Cost Adder;

- September Line Loss;
- Monthly Reconciliation.

HEARD, a Safety Report for the month of September, including the October Safety Committee Report and New Substation Sign

REVIEWED, the Monday morning safety meeting sheet dated Oct. 21, 2019.

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

- October Operations Report;
- Communications Report;
- CFC Rate Increase;
- Upcoming meetings

REVIEWED, the October Operations Report.

REVIEWED, the Communications Report.

REVIEWED, the CFC Rate Increase.

WERE REMINDED, of upcoming meetings on Nov. 25, 2019, Dec. 23, 2019 and Jan. 27, 2020 at 1 p.m. in the Clay board room. The Christmas party will be Dec. 16, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at Johnny and Junes.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 8:45 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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