

# 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

It sure has been busy lately here at Clay Electric, so this month I want to take the opportunity to update you on some of the happenings here at your cooperative. Your cooperative is nearing completion of a major line rebuild in an ongoing effort to provide more reliable service. We strive every year to complete some of the necessary improvements and/or upgrades to the system, and this year the line-men sure have been busy.

The inside staff have been hard at work as well. We are in the process of upgrading our system to the new Futura GIS system, with electronic staking. The GIS system is a way of keeping track of the entire system in a digital map, and the electronic staking add-on will allow us to more accurately and efficiently complete line builds. All of this is being done in order to provide better service to you, our member-owners. Once we complete the GIS implementation, we hope to continue to upgrade our system with the eventual goal of being able to know you are out of power before you even have a chance to report it!

I also want to thank Wabash Independent Networks (WIN) for the completion of our new fiber connection. Wabash is a sister cooperative and embodies the principle of "Cooperation Among Cooperatives." WIN employees have gone above and beyond to help support CECI in its endeavors to

modernize.

Additionally, I am pleased to inform you about the addition of the Co-op Connections Card. All members are eligible to receive this card. Many of you probably already did so at the annual meeting. If you haven't gotten yours yet, stop by the co-op office and pick one up. We are still signing up local businesses for this discount program. Other cooperative members around the state and country have already saved millions of dollars by taking advantage of this opportunity.

The Co-op Connections card is a popular benefit many Touchstone Energy cooperatives around the country, such as Clay Electric, offer to their many members. The cards provide product and service discounts at cooperating local and national businesses. Many members of other co-ops across the country have gotten discounts from national businesses such as Wal-Mart, Best Buy and Target. These discounts can help you save on many products and services such as automotive, clothing, dining, energy efficiency and hotel chains. These discounts even include prescription drug discounts at national and local pharmacies.

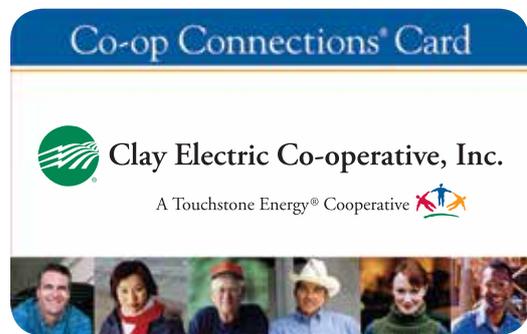
The prescription discounts alone have saved Touchstone Energy members \$25 million. The discounts can also include medical benefits including dental, vision, hearing

aids, X-rays, and chiropractic benefits. While you cannot use these benefits with your insurance, you can use the card to get discounts on services not covered by your insurance.

The best part of the program is it's completely free of charge to you! All you have to do is pick up a card and start using it.

We are asking for your help in one area though. If you have a business that you frequent often, ask them to join the program. It's a great opportunity for that business to get some free advertising and some loyal customers.

You can rest assured we are constantly on the lookout for better ways in which to serve you. Until next month, be safe.



Ed VanHoose  
Manager

# 2015 Appleknocker Arts & Science Festival

**LAST SATURDAY IN SEPTEMBER**

**9-26-15**

**9:45 - 4:00**

**Annual Walk and Run held prior to festival.**

*Sponsored by the Flora Academic Foundation, held at Flora High School.*

**Family Fun, Food, Free Admission and Entertainment;**

**Free Parking and Shuttle Service from football field.**

2015 features Jesse White Tumblers, BreakAway Band, local talent and tumblers, Kahok Dancers and traditional favorites. Countless activities for children of all ages.

Enjoyment and valuable information for all. Lawn Chairs and Strollers welcome; NO pets please.

Purchase tickets on-site for food, and enrichment activities.

Info: call 618-662-8894, or log on to <http://floraschools.com/> and link to Flora Academic Foundation, Appleknocker, Run, etc. All booths need approved and pre-registered at least 2 weeks prior to festival;

no wares please. Walkers, and runners can pre-register up to their 8:30 AM event.

APPLEKNOCKER booths are primarily local Student and Community enrichment or fundraising groups, as well as informational booths from organizations and groups directly serving Clay County.



## Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

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

Office hours:  
7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

[www.ceci.coop](http://www.ceci.coop)

[www.facebook.com/ceci.coop](http://www.facebook.com/ceci.coop)



## You could be a winner!

Every other year, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) conducts a statewide member survey project on our behalf. You may be randomly selected to participate in the project. People who complete and submit the survey questionnaire will be entered in a drawing to win one of five-\$100 bill credits.

The AIEC and the vendor used to conduct the survey do not sell or share your private information. They provide us with the blind results, and we evaluate the information that is gathered to improve how we serve you. The more completed surveys we receive, the more accurate the information we receive will be. So please help us and yourself by participating. We anticipate that survey questionnaires will be distributed in September and October.

Please contact us if you have any questions.





## Look up for hazards during harvest

**A**fter working in a field on a neighbor's farm, Jim Flach parked his equipment and stepped out of the vehicle. Sadly, Jim did not realize his equipment was touching an overhead power line, and he became a path for the electrical current as he placed his foot onto the ground. Jim received a severe electric shock that ultimately resulted in his death a few months later. Safe Electricity urges farmers to take the proper precautions when working around power lines.

"The rush to harvest can lead to farmers working long days with little sleep," cautions Kyla Kruse, communications director of the Energy Education Council and its Safe Electricity program. "It is important to take time for safety. Before starting work, make sure to note the location of overhead power lines."

To stay safe around overhead power lines, Safe Electricity urges farm operators and workers to:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.

- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines — at all times, in all directions.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always remember to lower extensions when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, call Clay Electric Co-operative at 662-2171 or 1-800-582-9012, or your power provider.

If contact is made with a power line, stay on the equipment. Make sure to warn others to stay away, and call 911. Do not leave until the utility crew says it is safe to do so. The only reason to exit is if the equipment is on fire. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together, without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

Some additional safety tips from Safe Electricity include:

- Do not use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around grain bins.
- Always hire qualified electricians for any electrical issues.
- Do not use equipment with frayed cables.

"You need to double check, even triple check, to see what is above you," says Marilyn Flach, Jim's widow. His son Brett adds, "Be conscious of your surroundings. You need to keep your eyes open and beware of overhead lines."

For more electrical safety information, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

*Safe Electricity is the safety outreach program of the Energy Education Council, a non-profit organization with more than 400 electric cooperative members and many others who share the mission of educating the public about electrical safety and energy efficiency.*

# Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

## Regular meeting June 22, 2015

**T**rustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Bill Croy, Neil Gould, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schnepfer and Greg Smith. Also present were Executive Vice President/ General Manager Ed VanHoose, and Cooperative Attorney Melanie Pearce. The invocation was given by Frank Czyzewski.

**Approved** the agenda as amended by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held May 26, 2015.

**Accepted** 10 new members for service.

**Canceled** 5 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$26,363.98 for the month of May 2015.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of May 2015.

**Approved** 6 month write-offs in the amount of \$1,075.59.

**Reminded** of upcoming Region 5 & 6 meeting. Appointed as NRECA Voting Delegate Richard Rudolphi and as Alternate Ed VanHoose, Appointed as Federated Insurance Voting Delegate Frank Herman and as Alternate Richard Rudolphi.

**Heard** a report by Trustee Logan concerning the recent AIEC regular monthly meeting with reference to the "Executive Summary".

**Reminded** of upcoming AIEC Annual Meeting. Discussed attendees of Director Course. Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose regarding development of Illinois CFC Advisory Committee. Appointed as CFC Advisory Delegate Neil Gould and Alternate Bob Pierson. Appointed as AIEC/NRECA Director Election Delegate Bob Pierson and as Alternate Neil Gould.

**Heard** a report by Trustee Herman concerning the recent SIPC Board meeting. Reviewed "Administration and Finance Department Summary", RUS approval of using RUS funds, and Norris contract impact.

**Reviewed** National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) letter regarding Cooperative System Integrity Fund. Approved 5% contribution towards said fund.

**Reviewed** CFC memorandum as to District 5, Position M on the CFC Board of Directors, which CECI Gen. Mgr. VanHoose is pursuing.

**Reminded** of and Reviewed plans and topics for discussion for upcoming Strategic Planning meeting.

**Discussed** and **Approved** upcoming Legal Seminar registration for Co-op Attorney Pearce.

**Heard** a report by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose as to the following;

- Policy 900-3 concerning Damage to Cooperative owned facilities. **Approved** revisions as presented.
- Weather related Demand inconsistencies. Reviewed Form 7/ Operations Report with attention to line loss.
- Reviewed cash flow report.
- Reviewed financial trend analysis.
- Heard a report as to recent safety meeting, topic being line clearance.
- Informed of recent hit & run to Cooperative vehicle.
- Reviewed photo of newly hired Line Clearance employees.
- Report of status of ordering of the new Terex Digger unit.

Thereafter **Approved** Managers report.

**Reminded** of upcoming Clay Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting of Members on August 27, 2015. Heard a report concerning Tables and Chairs for Annual Meeting attendees. Approved the purchase of Tables to be used for CECI Annual Meeting and said Tables to be donated to Oil Belt Christian Service Camp (OBCSC). Instructed Gen. Mgr. VanHoose to attempt to obtain agreement from OBCSC to accommodate CECI with scheduling of venue for future Annual Meetings.

**Reminded** of Nominating Petition deadline of July 14, 2015, for Trustee Elections.

**Reviewed** and **Approved** two requests for the retirement of capital credits to the estates of two deceased members, pursuant to Cooperative Policy.

**Reviewed** 2014 Annual Engineer Certification from PowerTech Engineering, LLC.

**Reviewed** Thank You note from CECI Member Shirley McGee as to performance of line clearance employees.

**Heard** a report by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose as to lightning storm and damage to CECI electronic system.

**Adjournment.**



**The Clay Electric Co-operative Office will be closed on Monday, September 7, 2015 for Labor Day.**