

## Finding a new way to serve

### An Army veteran discovers a 'perfect fit' at Clay Electric

By Cathy Cash

*The following article appeared on the website of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in December 2017. Carrie Goldstein began her employment at Clay Electric Co-operative in April, 2017 as our bookkeeper. She is a valuable asset to our organization.*

Carrie Goldstein had never fired a bullet in her life. She wasn't super athletic. She was just a skinny, small-town teenager who wanted to make a difference.

So, when her parents declined to give her permission to join the military at 17, Goldstein signed up herself with the U.S. Army Reserves shortly after her 18th birthday.

Her paperwork went through on Sept. 10, 2001, a day before terrorists struck.

"I really didn't want to go straight into college, and I also didn't want to stick around and work in a factory. But I wanted to make a difference somewhere," said Goldstein, who grew up on Clay Electric Co-operative lines in Flora, Ill. and now serves as the co-op's bookkeeper.

"I wanted to be part of the military. Once I made that decision, nothing was holding me back. I wanted something my parents could be proud of."

Goldstein thrived in the Army. At 21, she made NCO sergeant, a rank that usually takes five years to earn.

At Clay Electric, she sees her military experience as an asset. "To work together for a common goal—that's the main definition of a co-op and the main definition of the military, so it's a perfect fit," she said.

NRECA's veteran hiring initiative, Serve Our Co-ops, Serve Our Country, aims to reach former military personnel like Goldstein to let them know about careers in rural communities at electric co-ops. Ed VanHoose, Clay Electric's general manager, is one of several co-op leaders helping to spread the word.

For VanHoose, Goldstein's military training, related job experience and unmatched enthusiasm put her above dozens of applicants. She was hired in April.

"The defining factor for hiring Carrie is she had everything I was looking for, plus the military experience. That spoke volumes to me about her



Photo Courtesy of Carrie Goldstein

Staff Sgt. Carrie Goldstein is welcomed home in 2005 from a tour in Iraq by her mother, family and friends in Illinois.

character," said VanHoose, a Navy reservist who recalled growing up around military folks in Oklahoma.

"She served her country on the front lines, and now she serves as the front line for the co-op. When the phone rings, she picks up. When someone's at the counter or drive-thru, she's quick to help. That's not specific to her job in bookkeeping. That's her providing service to members. She does whatever it takes to get the job done."

For Goldstein, it's all about the co-op teamwork akin to what she relished about the military.

"Whenever I come here, I feel like I can make a difference. And when I leave, I feel like I've done something important and productive," she said.

In the Army, Goldstein took on multiple duties outside her assignments as an administrative specialist in the 993rd Postal Company, which, attached to the First Cavalry Division in Fort Hood, deployed to Iraq in 2004.

Under Operation Enduring Freedom, her unit took convoy missions to remote sites and built a post office in Camp Victory in North Baghdad where Goldstein pursued additional military occupation specialties.

She volunteered for supply work, then as a small arms mechanic for M16s, M4s and the M249 SAW, a light

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# 2017 Undeliverable Capital Credits List

ABCO Oil & Gas Co	Boone Clement	Daugherty Flossie	Gharst Murl	Hockman James N	Lathrop Chapel Church	Mojonnier C G
Adams Florences	Bower Charles	Daugherty Homer	Gibbons Claude	Hohlbauch C W	Lee Mabel E	Monical Edgar
Adams Lyle	Bp Oil Pipeline Company	Daugherty Jack	Gibson Leone	Hoke Geneva	Levitt M D	Monical Everett
Alderson Norman	Brainard Sylvia	Daugherty Jason	Gibson Mary	Hollis Charles J	Levitt Russell	Montoney Clyde
Allen Donald L	Bray Hallie	Daugherty Lester	Gill Eldon	Holzhausen	Lewis Anna	Moore Holly
Allen Ianthus	Breuer & Curran Oil C	Davis Alva C	Gill Gaylord	Horton Ruth	Lewis Erma A	Morgan Maude
Allen Nancy	Brewer Raymond	Davis Roger	Gill H C	Hough Clara	Lewis Harrell D	Morris Jerusha
Allen Phyllis	Briscoe Robert N	Dehart Flossie	Golden Cecil	Hout Delbert	Lewis Norma	Moseley Hubert C
Allen Russell	Brown Charles T	Deitz Clarenc	Goodman Edward	Hout Ray	Lewis Roy A	Mulvaney Mabel
American Telephone &	Brummer Wm	Delzell V D	Goodman Robert	Huddleston Virgie	Lewis Ruth M	Mulvaney Pearl B
Anderson Boyd	Buerster Lowell	Dennis Chlorus	Gordon Charles E	Huffman Jettie	Liggett Ed	Mulvaney Clyde
Anderson Ira	Buffington Pauline	Deselms Edna M	Gould C A	Hurd Robert K	Locust Grove School	Nadler Louie
Armstrong Clarence J	Bumgarner Norman	Devlin Frank E	Grager Madge	Hurford Erma Arlene	Logan Clive	Neeley Melvin
Armstrong George	Burgess Gladis	Devlin Irene S	Gray C N	Iffert Leo	Logan Estel	Nees Forrest
Arrow Petroleum Co	Burgess Olaf L	Deweese Edward	Griffith Gerald	Iffert Veronic A	Logan Violet	Nelson Wayne
Arterburn W G	Burroughs Harry	Donaldson Joe	Guinn Everett	Iola Old Settlers	Lombird Loisce	Nichols Erma
Ashland Pipe Line	Burroughs Ted	Dow Everett	Guinn Leland	Iola Stone Quarry	Lomelino Oyl Company	Noblet Lucille
Atlantic Richfield C O	Burton R J	Drewes Norbert	Gumbel Lawrence	Ivey Flossie	Lucas Town Hall	Norton W F
Bailey Melvin	Busse Doris J	Dugan James F	Gummig B R	Jackson Lloyd	Lynn Branch Church	Nosek Norman
Bailey Myrtle	Byers Richard D	Dunnigan Mamie M	Hagen F L	Jamison Susie L	Madden Faye B	Nottingham Nellie
Bailey Roscoe	Caldwell Wayne	Dunnigan Wilbur	Hagen Kenneth L	Jinks Margaret	Majors Fred	Oaster Eldon
Baird James B	Calvert Petroleum Co	Eason Oil Co	Hale Levi	Johnson John A	Marathon Ashland Pipeli	Obrien Geneva
Baker Archie	Cammon Clifford	Eckart Carl	Halteman Catherine	Johnson William H	Martin Wm E	Obrien Richard
Baldrige N A	Canter Drilling Co	Eckelberry E B	Hanna Goldie	Johnston Leo P	Matson Leo	Odell John V
Banning Adelia M	Carder Lloyd	Edgewood Village	Hanson Jack	Joliff John W	Maxwell Genelle C	Odonnell Lula
Banning Naman	Carlson C P	Elmo A Cates Estate	Hardy Henry	Jones Clyde	Mcallister Danny	Osborn Otto
Barbee Donald	Carney Martha	Equilon Pipeline Compan	Harmon Ellen	Jones Ephraim	McCallister Marjorie L	Oskaloosa School
Barbee James	Carrillo Robert	Erlenbush Robert G	Harmon Floyd	Jones Harlen	Mccavitt Donald C	Osman William
Barbee Victor	Carter H Russell	Erwin E L	Harmon Myrel	Jones Paul	McClure Sherman	Padgett Harold
Barnes Leland	Carter Lotha	Etchason Carl	Harmon Rose M	Jones Robert W	Mccollum James F	Painter L H
Barnick Carl	Carter Mildred	Etienne Richard	Harrell Hubert V	Jones Ruby	Mcdaniel Raymond	Painter Orpha
Bateman Blanche	Childers Robert	Everett Doris H	Harrell John R	Karchmer Aaron	McElyea Leslie	Parish Elsie
Bay Ida	Cisne Mary A	Everett Gene	Harrington	Keck Edgar	Mcgee Glenn	Partridge Sam
Bay Sylvester	Cities Service Oil C O	Everette John	Charles F	Keck Wendell	Mcgee Jack	Patterson Floyd
Bayler Dolan Doris Bayl	Clagg Bernice	Faith Methodist	Harrington George	Kenley Herman O	Mcgrew L R	Patterson Glenn O
Bayler Earl D	Clark Adrian	Fancher Bonnie	Harris Herbert	Kessler Carl	Mchenry Charles F	Patterson Mina
Beard Florenc	Clark Marie	Fancher Mervin	Harris James H	Kessler Melvin	Mckinney James	Paul Vivian
Beard Gene	Clifton Taylor	Farrar Drilling Comp A	Harrison E B	Kessler Raymond	Mckinney Willard	Pedicorn Willis
Beard W W	Coggin Elsie	Fatherree Lizzie	Harrison George E	Kessler Stella	Mckinney Ansel	Perdue Raymond
Behnke Betty	Coggin D S	Felgenhaur Fred	Harrison Mabel	Kincaid Leroy	Mckinney Clarice	Peters Ernest
Bennett Lee	Colborn Cn	Fellowes Pearl	Hart Elsie	Kincaid Paul	Mckinney Dios	Pettyjohn Iva
Bennett William R	Colclasure Ruby M	Fender David	Hartleroad Shelby J	Kincaid Van	Mcgrew L R	Pflaum Raymond
Benskin H R	Colclasure Ray	Fender J P	Hays Thomas	King Ople	Mchenry Charles F	Pfnister Rose
Benskin Lue E	Combs Delores	Fisher Kenneth E	Heiden Donald	King Roy Sr	Mckinney Eddie	Phelps Elsie
Berry Robert E Mrs	Continental Oil Co	Fisher Lillie	Heitman Fred	King Vida F	Mckinney Paul	Phillips Lawren
Berthold Paul	Cook Della	Fitzgerald Harry	Hemrich Carl	Kingwood Oil Company	Mckinney Charles D	Pickett Allena
Bible Cleo	Cook Jason L	Fitzpatrick C	Hemrich Tommy R	Klanck John	Mckinney James	Piercion Carl
Bible Grove Lamp	Cook Leroy	Fitzpatrick Dessie	Henderson Thomas C	Klein Wm E	Mckinney Willard	Pierson Ruby
Bible Grove School	Cook Mary E	Flexter Jennie	Hendy Joseph E	Kluthe William	Mcknelly Ansel	Pilcher Claude
Bible Grover	Cooper Joe	Foster Omer	Heninger R K	Koons Leslie	Mcknelly Clarice	Pilcher John W
Bible Leo	Correll Alma	Franklin James C	Henke Dale	Kramer Adam	Mcknelly Dios	Pilcher Loren
Billington Wallace H	Cox Johnny W	Franklin Woodrow	Henke John	Krantz James	Mcknelly Rose Mary	Piercion Ruby
Birch Emma	Crackel Bertha E	Freeman Millie	Henson Earl	Kranz Esther	Mcclure Sherman	Pilcher John W
Birch Josephine	Crouse Maggie L	Freeman Norma	Henson Edwin T	Krec	Mcdaniel Raymond	Pilcher Loren
Birch Richard	Crum John A	Fritzler Pauline	Henson Hubert D	Kroenlein Luther	McElyea Leslie	Podesta William L
Bishop Estella M	Cruse Archie	Frost Harry	Herdes Elaine	Krutsinger Athol O	Mcgee Glenn	Poehler Edna
Bissey Frank R	Cruse Ozro	Frye Fern	Herdes Floy	Krutsinger Chloren	Mcgee Jack	Porter Dewey
Blair Burdett	Ctric Cooperative	Galloway Enoch	Herdes James	Krutsinger Leo	Mcgrew L R	Powell Dale
Blanton John	Cummings Bishop	Galloway Walter Jor	Herdes Leo	Krutsinger Merle	Mchenry Charles F	Prather Charlie
Bloemker Florence M	Cunningham Juanita	Gaskini Va	Hickenbottom Nellie	Krutsinger Merle	Mckinney James	Prather Clarenc
Boerngen Oscar	Curtright William	Geis Faye S	Higgason Harold	Kuenstler Lorraine	Mckinney Willard	Prather Delmer
Bonham Harley P	Dane Irene	George T W	Hildebrand F J	Kuhajda Joseph B	Mcknelly Ansel	Prather Mary
Boomgarden Bert	Dasch Austin	George T W Estate	Hilton Esther	Kuhlig William	Mcknelly Clarice	Prather Mary
	Dasch H A	Gerber Lester	Hinkle Pearl	Kuhns David	Mcknelly Dios	Provident Oil Co
			Hinterscher Henry	Lamb Charles W	Mcknelly Rose Mary	Pugh Kenneth
			Hippard Mark J	Landreth Loren	Mcknelly Rose Mary	Pulliam Frieda
			Hockman Frank	Lane Harold	Mcknelly Rose Mary	Pursell Sarah
				Lappin Joe	Mcknelly Rose Mary	Quandt Lester
					Mcknelly Rose Mary	Ragle Frank
					Mcknelly Rose Mary	Rauch Cliff
					Mcknelly Rose Mary	Rauch Ellarea
					Mcknelly Rose Mary	Real Dorothy
					Mcknelly Rose Mary	Reaves N E
					Mcknelly Rose Mary	Rector Orpha
					Mcknelly Rose Mary	Reed C D
					Mcknelly Rose Mary	Reed J R
					Mcknelly Rose Mary	Reinhardt Oscar

Remkus Thomas	Schoonover Harold	Smith Helen J	Storck Milford	Tolliver Lawrence	Weaver Stanford	Willison Eugene
Rice Richard	Schoonover Harold	Smith Hoda	Stortzum Delmar	Tolliver Ruth E	Weber O R	Wilske Carl F
Ring Oil Company	Schoonover Spencer	Smith Norman	Straley G H	Tolliver Thelma	Webster Albro	Wilson Charles E Jr
Rinnert Vivian	Schoonover Spencer	Smith Rosemary	Street Joan	Tolliver Wayne	Weemer Lester	Wilson Glenn
Ritter Mont	Schoonover Stanford	Smith Roy W	Tackitt Cecil	Touchette Ernest	Weger Dennis	Wilson Mary
Robertson Hobert	Sessions Norene	Snell Everett	Tackitt Ora	Townsend Harold	Weidner G R	Wilson Sam
Robinson Arnold	Shadle John W	Soderquist Robert	Tarr Robert	D	Welch Nadean	Winters William R
Robinson Don C	Shaffer Harold	Southern Illinois	Taylor Harry L	Trago Lester	Wells Opal	Wolfe Isom
Robison H F	Shaw Lee	Oi L	Taylor Maud R	Trash Or Treasure	Wells Robert	Wood B M
Rockwood Altha	Shell Oil Company	Sparlin Glenn	Taylor Roy	Ant I	Welton John	Wood Laura V
Rosenberger Herber	Shields L H	Sparlin William L	Teague Henry F	Triplett Eileen	Welty George E	Woods Calvin C
Ross Ralph	Shields Rolla	Specht Alfred	Texas Pipe Line	Trunkline Gas Co	Wendte George	Woofter J E
Ruckman Dellos	Shriner Victor	Spencer Roy E	Co	Tullett Pearl	Wesner Margaret	Woomer Jeannet
Ruckman Ivan	Sigrist T E	Spencer Thelma	Texota Oil	Uebinger Mary P	M	Workman Willard
Ruger Grace	Sills Arthur L	Spiker Ethel	Company	Ulrey Virgil	West Melvin O	Worlow George
Runyon Delbert	Simmons Charlie	Spinner John	Theobald Thelma	Valbert Lela	Wheeler Henry S	Yates Jack
Rutger Faye	Simmons	Sprague Oil Corp	Thomann Ezra	Vandyke Louise	Wheeler Zelma	Young Carl
Sanders Lawrenc	Genevieve	Staggs Helen	Thomann Marjorie	Vannorsdoll C B	White Dewain E	Young Charlie
Scammahorn H F	Slagley George E	Stanfield Immel	Thomas Emory	Vaughn M R	White Ivan	Young Frank
Schaffner Harold	Slagley Lowell	Stanford Arvilla	Thompson Dorothy	Vaught C R	Whitlock Laura E	Young Jerry
H	Slagley William L	Est A	Thompson Harry	Vest Melvin	Wiehle Herman	Young Roger C
Schaffner James	Slyvka William J	Stanford Lloyd	W	W C McBride	Wilder Paul	Zerkel C G
P	Sly Oral	Stanford Roger	Thompson John	Walker Noble	Wiley Vannah M	Zimdars Ervin
Scheriger Harold	Smith Earl E	Stanford Town	Thompson Leslie	Walker Walter	Wilfong Carl D	Zimmerman
Schnell Lester	Smith Edgar	Hall	H	Walters Everett	Wilke Ray	Charles C
Schnepfer Billie J	Smith Elmer L	Stanley Elizabeth	Thompson Ron W	Ward W H	Williams Naomi	Zink Irene
Schnepfer Roy	Smith Floyd	Stanley Robert N	Thompson Ruth H	Watkins Lee O	Williams Ona	Zion Presbyterian
	Smith Harland	Stefanik John F	Thompson Sam	Wattles Jenness	Willis James	Ch
		Stonecipher M M	Toliver Viola B	Wease Chester	Willis Roy	

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machine gun. She also became a unit prevention leader, which involved rousing soldiers for random drug tests, a substance-abuse-prevention function.

To achieve the rank of sergeant, Goldstein faced the Army Promotion Board of superior officers, who grilled her on her tactical and technical proficiency. Later, her company voted to send her before the NCO of the Year Board.

"I wanted to learn everything. I didn't get sleep very much," she said. "Because I asked for so many duties, I was promoted."

Goldstein returned to the U.S. and the Army Reserves in 2005. She started a family and received an honorable discharge as an E6 staff sergeant in 2009.

Back in her hometown, she struggled to find employment. When she divorced, her family needed more security than her job provided at the time. That's

when she saw the Clay Electric bookkeeper opening.

"I thank Ed for giving me a chance," she said. "I think that a lot of bosses might be a little intimidated by a vet or soldier. We're not out there looking to take charge, but to take what we have and make it a better place.

"Everybody cares about the job they do, cares about the members and wants to do the best they can for everyone."

Now Goldstein marvels at her decision to join the military and her path home.

"It was a tough decision. I had never run a mile in my life, and I had never shot a gun in my life. I wanted to challenge myself. I am who I am today because of the Army. I will be forever proud of myself for being so young and realizing it was the best avenue for me," she said.

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*Cathy Cash is a staff writer at NRECA.*

## Rate increase for 2018

**A**s was reported at the 2017 Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. Annual Meeting of Members, there was an increase in rates beginning on January 1, 2018. This increase was reflected on your February billing. The rate increase was not the 4 percent expected, as announced at the Annual Meeting. Instead, the monthly minimum, fixed charge increased \$1.50, and the kilowatt hour

(kWh) rates increased 1.5 percent.

The increase was due to a wholesale rate increase, caused by the challenges that Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, (SIPC) Clay Electric's power supplier, faces.

Clay Electric offers different payment options that may help you. We offer Budget Billing, which averages your monthly payments based on billing history. American Clearing House (ACH) bank draft

payments, you still receive the same bill card, but your payment is made on the due date of the bill (the 24th) and taken right from your checking account, Online Bill Pay, Credit and Debit cards and e-checks, using one of these methods you can call the office and pay on the phone. If you have any questions on the different options, just call and we will be happy to explain the process.

# Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

## Regular meeting January 2, 2018

**T**he regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the principal office of the Cooperative, R.F.D., in Flora, Illinois beginning at 1:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, January 2, 2018.

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Bill Croy, Neil Gould, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schnepfer, and Greg Smith. Also present were: Ed VanHoose Executive V.P. General Manager, Tyra Cycholl, CECI Attorney, Luke Johnson, and Jamie Myers CECI employees. The meeting was opened by Richard Rudolphi, who presided and Greg Smith, Secretary, acted as secretary thereof.

The invocation was 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]:

Were **Introduced** to Jamie Myers, new Part time Service Representative at CECI. Mrs. Myers then left the meeting.

**Approved** the December suggested agenda as presented.

**Approved** the consent agenda as presented including the following:

**Approved**, the minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on November 27, 2017.

**Reviewed**, that the Board of Trustees hereby: (a) approve and admit to membership those 15 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 11 former members shown on the Manager's Report since the last such review by the Board, said members no longer taking service.

**Approved**, the list of work orders in the amount of \$56,445.81.

**Reviewed** the checklist for the month of November 2017.

**Approved** the November Credit Card Statements.

**Reviewed** the November Attorney Retainer.

**Reviewed** the NRCO Quarterly newsletter.

**Reviewed** the CFC Report.

**Approved** December write-offs in the amount of \$1,120.97.

**Approved** Richard Rudolphi as Voting Delegate for NRECA Annual Meeting.

**Approved** Ed VanHoose as Voting Delegate and Bill Croy as Alternate for NRTC Annual Meeting.

**Heard** a report by Luke Johnson regarding year end operations. Johnson then left the meeting. **Reviewed and Discussed** 2018 Capital Credit Retirements.

**Reviewed and Discussed** 2018 five-year actuals.

**Reviewed and Discussed** 2018 Capital items.

**Reviewed and Discussed** 2018 Sources of Revenue.

**Reviewed and Discussed** Statewide Fixed Charges.

**Reviewed and Discussed** 2018 Budget Rate Increases.

**Discussed and Approved** the 2018 Budget.

**Reviewed** the NRECA Executive News Brief.

**Reviewed** the Federated Rural Insurance Litigation Report and changes to procedures as outlined in the Report.

**Reviewed** the Federated Member Update for November 2017.

**Reviewed** the Federated Member Equity Account Statement.

**Reviewed** SIPC notice of rate adjustment.

**Heard** a report on the recent SIPC meeting by Trustee Herman.

**Reviewed** the letter from George Obernagel regarding the open SIPC Secretary/Treasurer position.

**Heard** a report by Kevin Logan on the recent AIEC meeting.

**Informed** that the new Vice President of Regulatory Compliance at the AIEC is John C. Teimeyer.

**Reviewed** correspondence from AIEC legal counsel Bradley Rightnowar regarding Long-Term Renewable Resources Procurement Plan, as well as the objection filed by ComEd.

**Reviewed** the new building drawings.

Operations Manager, Luke Johnson re-entered the meeting. He **Informed** the board that a landowner had not signed an easement for a line build across his property at this time. He will continue to have discussions to get an easement. Johnson then left the meeting.

**Heard** a financial report by Manager VanHoose as to the following:

- November 2017 Form 7
- November 2017 Cash Flow;
- SIPC Power Delivered in November 2017 dated December 7, 2017  
November 2017 Power Factor.  
November 2017 Power Cost Adder  
November Line Loss.

**Heard** a General Safety Report for December 2017.

**Reviewed** Monday morning safety meeting sheet dated December 18, 2017.

**Heard and Approved** a report by Manager VanHoose as to the following:

- Interruptible Rates discontinuation
- Christmas to Foster Children
- CECI Bookkeeper Carrie Goldstein in RE Magazine
- Capital Credit error
- AIEC Manger's Meeting
- Renewable Tax
- Menard Resolution regarding Renewable Tax
- Copper theft
- FEMA Mutual Aid Rates
- Upcoming meetings

**Heard** a report by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose regarding the retirement of Capital Credits to the estate of 1 deceased Member. **Approved** the retirement pursuant to Cooperative Policy.

**Reviewed** three liability insurance certificates.

**Adjourned**

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

A Touchstone Energy® Coope

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7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

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