

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

Clay Electric Co-operative has been working hard to increase the reliability of our system over the last several years. We have seen dividends paid for those efforts with fewer and shorter outage events this year. Our new AMI system has been put to the test and has greatly decreased dispatch time and helped our linemen get to outages with greater speed and accuracy than in the past.

Our efforts to increase the reliability of the system continue this year as well. Our construction crews are working on upgrading five and a half miles of line in the Oskaloosa area and will then move on to upgrading a further three miles of line in the Bible Grove area. **14898-001** The construction crew will plan to finish out the year rebuilding two miles of line in the Oakmound area. These upgrades, in addition to a continued program of pole replacements, mean less worry for



our members when storm systems pass through our region. A more resilient grid means you have power when you need it most.

Our tree crew is also a huge part of the increased reliability we've been able to provide our members. Having

a dedicated crew of forestry technicians allow us to keep our right of ways clear and ensure the removal of problem trees before they fall through the lines and cause an outage. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure and our team works on preventative measures every day. Clay Electric Co-operative is grateful to them every day for their hard work and dedication.

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

WHAT TO LOOK FOR AFTER A STORM

When the skies clear and the birds sing, know that the storm's fury could have created **electrical hazards that you may or may not be able to see. Conditions in which stray electricity could energize the area, a person or objects include:**

DOWNED POWER LINES

- On the ground.
- Under storm debris.
- Draped over or touching a metal fence.
- Covered by standing water.
- Across or by the road.
- Hidden in tree branches.

OTHER POSSIBLE DAMAGE

- Drooping or sagging lines (never try to move one).
- Split or broken utility poles.
- Damage to a padmount transformer (green box).
- Lightning strike to a substation transformer.
- Damaged or unstable guy wires.

NEVER GO NEAR downed power lines or other damaged electrical equipment to assess damage or clean up the area. **STAY AWAY** and call 9-1-1 to report damage.

Power lines and other electrical equipment **do not have to be sparking, arcing (giving off a flame) or on fire to be energized.**

 Safe Electricity.org®



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.

We're ready for storm season. Are you?

Summer is in full swing, and I welcome more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the warm weather. Summertime brings many of my favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, afternoons on the water and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

But summer months also make conditions right for dangerous storms. These potential weather events can cause destruction to our electrical system, but I want you to know that Clay Electric Cooperative crews are ready and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. I would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness. You can visit ready.gov for additional resources.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, water and other essentials.
- Have sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. **12879-001** If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it is rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information, and check facebook.com/ceci.coop for power restoration updates.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property.

Planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. I hope we don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At Clay Electric Cooperative, we recommend you act today because there is power in planning. From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a safe and wonderful summer.



No game is worth getting struck by lightning

If you've been a parent, coach or player at an outdoor sporting event, you may have found yourself in this predicament. The clouds roll in and the sky gets dark, but you have "finish-game-itis." After all, it will only take a few more minutes.

This is one situation when finishing the game, match or inning is not worth the risk. Each year, thunderstorms produce an estimated 20 to 25 million cloud-to-ground lightning flashes in the U.S., each of which is a potential killer, according to the National Weather Service (NWS).

Some flashes strike directly under the storm where it is raining. Other times, the flashes reach away from the storm in places where people perceive the lightning threat to be low or non-existent and catch people off guard.

About 30 people are killed by lightning each year and hundreds more are injured, some suffering permanent neurological injuries. About two-thirds of the deaths are associated with outdoor recreational activities.

The NWS recommends that outdoor recreation organizers have an established lightning safety plan and follow it every time inclement weather conditions are present.

As part of the plan, coaches or organizers should establish who will listen to the latest accurate weather forecasts prior to a sporting event. It should also be clear who will make the decision to postpone or cancel if necessary.

The lightning safety guidelines should also address the following, according to the NWS:

- **Once in play, when should the activities be stopped?**

The short answer: When you see lightning, hear thunder or the skies look threatening, all activities should be stopped.

- **Where should participants, officials and spectators go for safety?**

No place outside is safe. Substantial buildings with wiring and plumbing are ideal. Small outdoor buildings, including dugouts, rain shelters, sheds and pavilions are NOT safe places to seek shelter.

- **When should activities be resumed?**

A minimum of 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder. Electrical charges can linger in clouds after a storm has seemingly passed.

- **Who should monitor the weather and make decisions about play?**

A level-headed and objective person should be the designated weather and lightning monitor. This should NOT be the coach, umpire or referee. The lightning monitor should know the weather safety guidelines and be empowered by teams, parents, coaches and spectators to make decisions.

- **What should be done if someone is struck by lightning?**

Call 9-1-1 for immediate medical attention. Victims do not carry an electrical charge. CPR or AED may be needed if the individual's breathing or heart has stopped.

Don't make decisions on when to call the game or match based on personal experience or pressure from others. **11486-002** For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

April 26, 2021

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, April 26, 2021

Trustees present were: Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Bill Croy, Neil Gould, Richard Rudolph, Frank Czyzewski, Frank Herman and Evan Smith. Also present were: Luke Johnson, CEO, Tyra Cycholl, Attorney for the Board, and Don Gulley, CEO of SIPC. Earl Riddlen joined the meeting via Zoom. The meeting was opened by Bob Pierson, who presided and Neil Gould, acted as secretary thereof.

The invocation was given by Frank Herman 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.

RECOGNIZED, Danny Schnepfer for his contributions to the Board.

DISCUSSED, appointing a new board member.

APPROVED, appointing Josh Schnepfer to finish out the term of Danny Schnepfer.

At 7:05 Earl Riddlen joined the meeting via Zoom and presented the Audit Report. Thereafter at 7:37 p.m., Earl Riddlen left the meeting.

ARPPROVED, the Audit Report as presented.

Don Gulley presented an update on SIPC. Thereafter at 8:45 p.m. Don Gulley left the meeting.

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 13 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 NCSC Report from the Board;
- **REVIEWED**, the CFC Owner Profile.

WERE REMINDED, the CFC Financial Planning meeting will be June 22-23 starting at 8:30 a.m.

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

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

WERE INFORMED, the NRECA Director spot will be open and voted on in July. Reviewed, the three applicants' resumes.

APPROVED, the final Form 7 for 2020.

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

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

REVIEWED the Safety Committee Report of meeting held March 23.

HEARD, a Safety Report for the month.

REVIEWED, the Monday morning Safety meeting held Aril 19, 2021.

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

the following topics.

- Operations Report;
- Toth and Associates Work Order Review;
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings.

REVIEWED, the Operations Report.

REVIEWED, the Toth and Associates Work Order Review.

REVIEWED, the Communications Report.

WERE REMINDED, of upcoming meetings on, May 24, 2021, June 28, 2021 and July 26, 2021 at 7 p.m. in the Clay Board Room. CFC Financial Planning Meeting on June 22 and 23.


REVIEWED, a thank you card from Bill and Cathy Croy.

In **NEW BUSINESS**, **DISCUSSED**, tree growth at the Xenia substation.

APPROVED, purchasing approximately one-half acre which surrounds the Xenia substation.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

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