

# Clay ELECTRIC News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

7784 Old Hwy. 50 ■ P.O. Box 517 ■ Flora, Illinois 62839 ■ [www.ceci.coop](http://www.ceci.coop) ■ 618-662-2171 ■ 800-582-9012

## From the Manager

I am happy to be writing this letter to the membership as my first as the CEO of Clay Electric Co-operative. Having started my career as an apprentice here 20 years ago, being your CEO is the culmination of a career journey that has taught me so much about what it means to be a cooperative. I appreciate the years of education and work that the cooperative has provided me, and I look forward to managing the day-to-day operations of Clay Electric. **10407-001**

Having worked alongside our staff for two decades, I can tell you that there are no employees more dedicated to the membership than those we have here at Clay Electric. April 18 is National Lineman Appreciation Day. The holiday traces back to Hurricane Sandy in 2012, where linemen from around the country rushed to the aid of the people caught in the destructive path left behind by the storm.

Our linemen show their dedication to the membership when they leave their warm beds in the middle of the night to respond to an outage here at home. It's reinforced when they volunteer to spend weeks away from home in horrible conditions working



Thank you from us North Carolinians for sending help our way. We appreciate your services!!

We're happy to help! We are all in this together, no matter if we are on the coast or in the middle. Be safe!

to restore power for the members of our sister cooperatives when hurricanes land or winter storms freeze large swathes of countryside.

Clay Electric Co-operative would like to express our deep and heartfelt gratitude for our linemen and for all linemen on National Lineman Appreciation Day and every day.

Don't forget to be on the 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!



**Matt Conklin**  
CEO

# Electric lineworkers keep the power moving

**W**hen people flip a light switch, they may not give much thought to why or how the light comes on.

Electric lineworkers provide an essential service: They work hard to install and maintain overhead and underground power lines that keep electricity flowing. These specialized workers are on call 24/7 in case severe storms or other circumstances cause the power to go out.

Lineworkers work with high-voltage electricity, often at great heights, in all kinds of weather conditions, such as snow, wind, rain, ice and extreme heat and cold. The work required to maintain the power grid is physically demanding. To become proficient, most lineworkers go through a technical training program and first learn on the job as apprentices under the careful eye of seasoned lineworkers who have earned journeyman status.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, electric power line installers and repairers typically:

- Install, maintain or repair the power lines that move electricity.
- Identify defective devices, voltage regulators, transformers and switches.
- **12726-002**
- Inspect and test power lines and auxiliary equipment.
- String (install) power lines between poles, towers and buildings.
- Climb poles and transmission towers and use truck-mounted buckets to get to equipment.

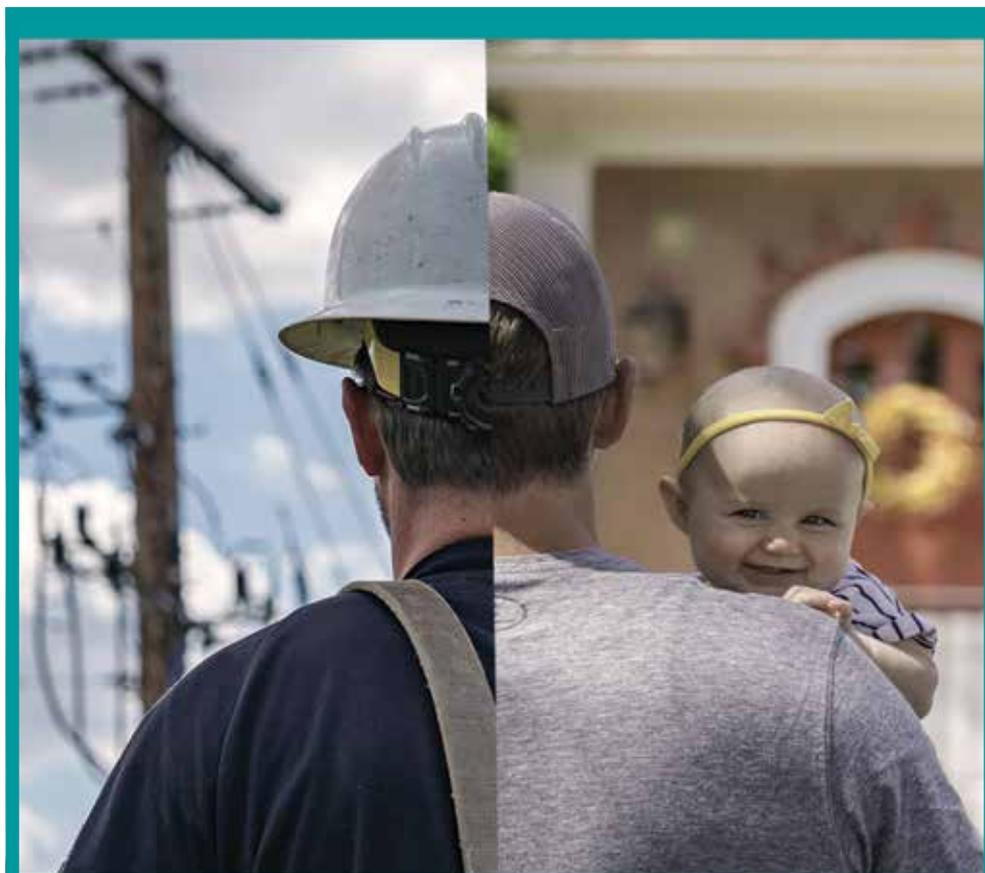
- Operate power equipment when installing and repairing poles, towers and lines.
- Drive work vehicles to job sites.
- Know and implement safety standards and procedures.

When a problem is reported, lineworkers must identify the cause and fix it. This usually involves diagnostic testing using specialized equipment and repair work. To work on poles, they usually use bucket trucks to raise themselves to the top of the structure, although all lineworkers must be adept at climbing poles and towers when

necessary. Workers use specialized safety equipment to keep them from falling when climbing utility poles and towers.

Storms and other natural disasters can cause extensive damage to power lines. When power is lost, line repairers must work quickly to restore service to customers.

Everyone at Clay Electric Co-operative works hard to provide reliable service, we not only salute our lineworkers, but also all our employees who work around the clock to keep the power on.

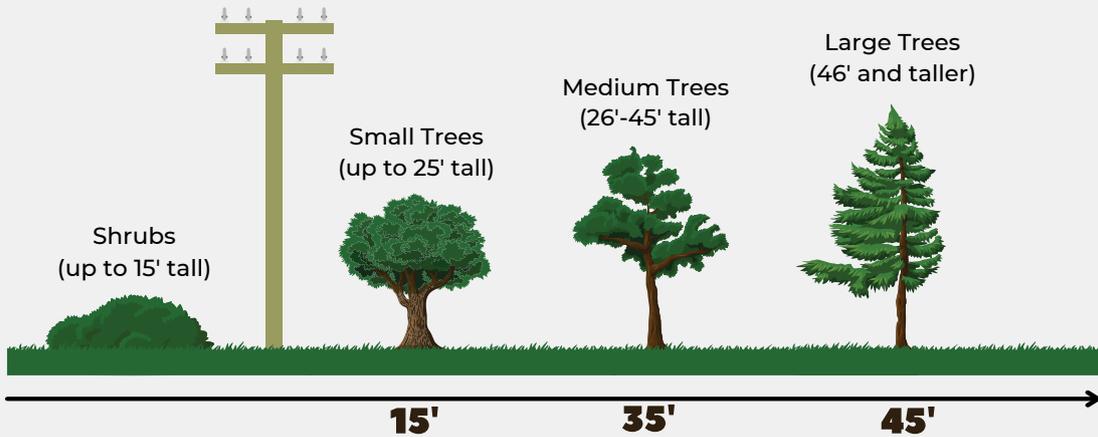


## LINWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

We thank lineworkers for their courage and commitment to powering our community.

# Plant the **RIGHT TREE** in the **RIGHT PLACE**

The larger the tree, the farther it should be from a power line. Avoid planting beneath power lines, near poles or close to electrical equipment.



Remember, know what's below by calling 8-1-1 before you dig.

Learn more at: 

## 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.

## PLEASE MOVE OVER FOR EMERGENCY AND UTILITY CREWS

If you see police, firefighters, utility crews or other emergency personnel on the side of the road, please slow down and move over when possible.

Together, we can keep our crews safe.



# Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

## February 28, 2022

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 5:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, February 28, 2022.

Trustees present were: Bob Pierson, Neil Gould, Bill Croy, Richard Rudolphi, Frank Czyzewski, Frank Herman, Josh Schnepfer and Evan Smith. Also present were: Matt Conklin, Interim CEO and Tyra Cycholl, Attorney for the Board. Kevin Logan was present via conference call. The meeting was opened by Bob Pierson, who presided and Neil Gould, acted as secretary thereof.

The invocation was given by Evan Smith 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]: **13484-001**

**APPROVED**, the Suggested Agenda.

**APPROVED**, the Consent Agenda including the following:

- **APPROVED**, the prior meeting minutes;
- **APPROVED**, (a) to admit to membership those 9 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 14 former members shown on the Manager's Report since the last such review by the Board, said members no longer taking service.

**REVIEWED**, the Consent Agenda including the following:

- **REVIEWED**, the Work Orders;
- **REVIEWED**, the Disbursements;
- **REVIEWED**, the Credit Card Statements;
- **REVIEWED**, the Attorney Retainer;
- **REVIEWED**, the Account Summary Report;
- **REVIEWED**, the Federated Report from the Board;
- **REVIEWED**, the CRC Report from the Board;
- **REVIEWED**, the NCSC Report from the Board.

**APPROVED**, the Deceased Estates.

**DISCUSSED**, then **APPROVED**, taking out bids on excess equipment specifically the Meter Loop.

**APPROVED**, the Farm Lease contract.

**DISCUSSED**, then **APPROVED** the warehouse furnace bid Heat Pump with gas backup.

**HEARD**, a report by Matt Conklin regarding the NISC Capital Credit check.

**DISCUSSED**, CFC Interest Rates.

**APPROVED**, looking in the CFC Interest Rate for the 30-year Rate at Level Principal for the new build.

**HEARD**, the Quarterly Loan Payment was paid.

**WERE INFORMED**, the Strategic Planning meeting will be Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 2023 with the Cost of Service Study to commence March 1, 2023 and completed Aug. 31, 2023.

**WERE UPDATED**, on the CRC Voting Delegate change form.

**WERE REMINDED**, the NRECA Annual Meeting is March 4-9 in Nashville with a Dinner on March 6 at Morton's Steakhouse.

**HEARD**, a report by Frank Herman regarding SIPC Board Meeting and the SIPC Cost of Service Study.

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

**REVIEWED**, the Solar updates and Solar hot topics.

**WERE INFORMED**, Youth to Springfield Day was cancelled.

**WERE UPDATED**, on Board Training events at AIEC and the Legislative Conference.

At 6:16 p.m. entered into Executive Session and Matt Conklin left the room. At 6:38, Matt Conklin returned to the meeting. At 6:37 p.m. exited Executive Session and returned to open meeting.

**APPROVED**, hiring Matt Conklin as CEO of Clay Electric Cooperative per attached Resolution. Gave authority to Matt Conklin to post and hire an operations manager.

**HEARD** and **APPROVED**, a financial report by Matt Conklin as to the following:

- Monthly Reconciliation;
- SIPC Power Delivered in January 2022;

■ January 2022 Cash Flow;

■ Line Loss;

■ January 2022 Form 7;

■ January 2022 Balance Sheet.

**REVIEWED**, the Safety Report for the month of February.

**REVIEWED**, the Monday morning Safety meeting held Feb. 21, 2022.

**REVIEWED**, the Federated Workers Compensation Mod Summary Report.

**HEARD** and **APPROVED**, the Manager's report by Matt Conklin on the following topics:

■ New Meridian Update;

■ Operations Report;

■ Communications Report;

■ Upcoming meetings.

**REVIEWED**, the New Meridian Update.

**REVIEWED**, the Operations Report.

**VIEWED**, broken pole images from the ice storm.

**REVIEWED**, the Communications Report.

**WERE REMINDED**, of upcoming meetings on, March 28, 2022 at 5 p.m., and April 25, 2022, May 23, 2022 and June 27, 2022 at 7 p.m. and the Safety Committee Meeting on March 17, 2022 at 11:30 a.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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.

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

[facebook.com/ceci.coop](https://facebook.com/ceci.coop)

