

From the Manager

As we come into summer, we want our members to remember to be safe while outside enjoying the weather and summer activities. Be mindful of overhead power lines when working around the house or hosting gatherings with family and friends. Pools are great fun, but water and electricity don't mix. Keep electrical devices away from pools where they could be splashed or fall in.

Our crews are also working outside this summer, so remember to slow down in work zones. We are employing contractors for the first time this summer since the 80s. **12351-001** While our construction crew is working on maintaining the system's day to day maintenance needs, our contractors are replacing a core three-phase line with new poles and larger wire to better serve future load needs and increase reliability. We appreciate the hard work our employees

and contractors are doing and ask that our members be understanding of any inconveniences during the work.



Photo courtesy of Iconik Studio – Fairfield, IL

Clay Electric Co-operative is a proud member of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. We are also very proud to congratulate Kaylee Scarbrough on receiving one of this year's Thomas H. Moore Memorial Scholarships. Each year, the AIEC awards 14 \$2,000 scholarships to the sons or daughters of co-op

members. Kaylee competed against 222 other students from across the state to receive the award, and we are very proud of her.

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

Five Tips for Hiring an Electrician

A licensed electrician can help with a variety of home projects from lighting upgrades to full renovations. Keep the following tips in mind if you're looking to hire an electrician.



- 1. Hire a licensed, qualified electrician for the job.**
Look for a master electrician to manage the project. Master electricians have the most experience and will often oversee the work of a journey-level electrician or apprentice.
- 2. Make sure the electrician is insured.**
Seasoned electricians know the importance of protecting themselves in case of an accident.
- 3. Read *all* the reviews.**
Hire an electrician that has several positive reviews – not just one or two. Read reviews on different sites, like Nextdoor, Yelp and HomeAdvisor, and consider asking your neighbors for recommendations.
- 4. Determine your budget. Get two quotes.**
Knowing your budget upfront helps move the process along. Prices can greatly vary, so get multiple quotes (at least two).
- 5. Talk timeline.**
Some electricians accidentally overbook projects. If your job is time-sensitive, convey that early on and discuss a realistic timeline with the electrician.

Safety tips for before, during and after the storm

Storm season is in full swing. Many summer storms have the potential to produce tornadoes—they can happen anytime, anywhere, and can bring winds more than 200 miles per hour.

In April, a video of NBC Washington chief meteorologist Doug Kammerer went viral. During a live broadcast, Kammerer called his teen-

level of your home. Discuss the dangers of severe thunderstorms; lightning can strike 10 miles outside of a storm. Remember: when you hear thunder roar, head indoors.

- Make a storm kit. It doesn't have to be elaborate—having a few items on hand is better than nothing at all. Try to include items

storm or tornado, do not try to outrun it. Pull over and cover your body with a coat or blanket if possible.

After the storm

- If the power is out, conserve your phone battery as much as possible, limiting calls and texts to let others know you are safe or for emergencies only.
- Stay off the roads if trees, power lines or utility poles are down. Lines and equipment could still be energized, posing life-threatening risks to anyone who gets too close.
- Wear appropriate gear if you're cleaning up storm debris on your property. Thick-soled shoes, long pants and work gloves will help protect you from sharp or dangerous debris left behind.

Summer is a time for many fun-filled activities, but the season can also bring severe, dangerous weather. Talk to your loved ones about storm safety so that everyone is prepared and knows exactly what to do when a storm strikes.



age son to warn him of a tornado that was headed straight for their home. **14846-001** Knowing the kids were likely playing video games and not paying attention to the weather, he told them to head straight to the basement. Kammerer debated if he should call his family on-air, but he knew it was the right thing to do. Luckily, the kids made it safely through the storm.

As adults, we understand the importance of storm safety, but younger children and teens may not realize the dangers storms pose. That's why it's so important to talk to your family and have a storm plan in place. Here are a several tips you can share with your loved ones.

Before the storm

- Talk to your family about what to do in the event of a severe storm or tornado. Point out the safest location to shelter, like a small, interior, windowless room on the lowest

like water, non-perishable foods, a manual can opener, a First-Aid kit, flashlights and extra batteries, prescriptions, baby supplies and pet supplies. Keep all the items in one place for easy access if the power goes out.

During the storm

- Pay attention to local weather alerts—either on the TV, your smartphone or weather radio—and understand the types of alerts. A thunderstorm or tornado watch means these events are possible and you should be prepared; a warning means a thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted in your area and it's time to take action.
- If you find yourself in the path of a tornado, head to your safe place to shelter, and protect yourself by covering your head with your arms or materials like blankets and pillows.
- If you're driving during a severe

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.

Before you jump in: consider potential electrical hazards

If you own a pool or hot tub, you know there are several steps required to keep it clean and well maintained. One aspect of owning a hot tub or pool that is often not top of mind for homeowners is the electrical system, which can pose a significant or even deadly hazard.

Since pool and hot tub areas mean wet skin and wet surfaces, the chance of electrocution increases when electricity is present.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) points out that electricity around pools, hot tubs and spas can be found in underwater lights, electric pool equipment (e.g., pumps, filters, vacuum), extension and power cords, electrical outlets or switches, electrical devices such as TVs and overhead power lines.

To keep swimmers and hot tubbers as safe as possible, be sure to have the electrical system inspected, repaired and upgraded to local and National Electrical Code by a licensed contractor. Also, do not set up a pool (temporary or permanent) where power lines are overhead or within 25 feet of water.

Electrical safety also includes:

- Making sure ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) are installed:
- On underwater lighting circuits operating at 15 volts or more.
- On all electrical equipment, including 120- and 240-volt heaters close to the pool.
- On all outdoor receptacles (outlets) within 20 feet of the water's edge.
- Testing permanently installed GFCIs monthly. Test those that are portable or connected to a cord before each use.
- Looking for signs of mold or other



growth on the inside lenses of lights, which can indicate water leakage.

- Ensuring that the power switch and GFCI for underwater lights are clearly marked and easily accessible in an emergency.
- Labeling power switches for pool, hot tub and spa equipment, as well as lighting.
- Using battery-operated electronics whenever possible.
- Ensuring that hands and feet are dry while using electrical devices.
- Keeping long-handled tools and poles away from nearby power lines, including the drop-down lines to your home.
- Holding pool skimmers and other long-handled tools as low as possible to the ground.
- Keeping electrical cords, wires and devices out of reach and at least 5 feet from the water.
- Unplugging a device that has fallen into the water before touching it. Even submersible pumps designed to run under water may not be safe to use when someone is in the water.

What to look for

Swimmers may feel a tingling sensation, experience muscle cramps or may not be able to move. You may see panic behavior by others or a motionless swimmer in the water. You might also see underwater lights that are not working properly. You might also hear complaints of tingling or other odd sensations.

If you think you are being shocked while in the water, move away from the source of the shock and get out of the water. If possible, exit without using a metal ladder; touching metal may increase the risk of shock. If you think someone in the water is experiencing an electrical shock, immediately turn off all power. If the power is not turned off, rescuers can also be shocked or electrocuted. After the power is disconnected, call 911, or have someone else make the call. For more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

April 25, 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 7:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, April 25, 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, CEO and Tyra Cycholl, Attorney for the Board. Kevin Logan was present via conference call. Special guests were Earl Ridlen and Brian Cherry. The meeting was opened by Bob Pierson, who presided and Neil Gould, acted as secretary thereof.

The invocation was given by Neil Gould and was followed by the pledge of allegiance,

The following proceedings were held [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 7 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 12 former members shown on the Manager's Report since the last such review by the Board, said members no longer taking service;

HEARD, the Auditors report as presented by Earl Ridlen and Brian Cherry.

APPROVED, the Auditor's report as presented. Thereafter at 7:35 p.m. Earl Ridlen and Brian Cherry left the meeting.

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, the Maple Flats Solar Farm and Territory dispute with Ameren.

APPROVED, hiring Jerry Tice and using AIEC as necessary for territorial issues regarding Maple Flats Solar Farm.

DISCUSSED and **APPROVED**, purchasing a DUR-A-Lift Truck with Add ons as recommended by the Committee to replace Truck #2.

DISCUSSED and **APPROVED**, ordering the Terex truck replacement for Truck 15 as recommended by the Committee.

APPROVED, the tower lease with Nextlink.

WERE UPDATED, on CFC Owner Profile.

WERE UPDATED, on CFC Integrity Fund.

REVIEWED correspondence from NRECA regarding The Cooperative Edge.

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

HEARD, a report by Kevin Logan regarding AIEC Update.

WERE UPDATED, on Board Training events at AIEC and AIEC Annual Meeting, the Legislative Conference as well as the CFC Forum and ACES Conference.

AT 8:40 p.m., **APPROVED**, entering into Executive Session to discuss Personnel.

At 8:46 p.m., **APPROVED**, exiting Executive Session and returning to Open Meeting.

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

- Monthly Reconciliation;
- SIPC Power Delivered in March 2022;
- March 2022 Cash Flow;

■ Line Loss;

■ March 2022 Form 7;

■ March 2022 Balance Sheet.

REVIEWED the Safety Report for the month of March.

REVIEWED, the Monday morning Safety meeting held April 18, 2022.

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

Thomas H. Moore Scholarship;

Youth to Washington;

Operations Report;

Communications Report;

Upcoming meetings.

WERE INFORMED, Kaylee Scarbrough received the Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarship.

WERE INFORMED, Hunter Bayler, Justin Mitchell and Riley Allen Bullard were selected for Youth to Washington Tour. **13774-001**

REVIEWED, the Operations Report.

REVIEWED, the Communications Report.

WERE REMINDED, of upcoming meetings on May 23, 2022, June 27, 2022, July 25, 2022 and Aug. 29, 2022 at 7 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 9:15 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

facebook.com/ceci.coop

