

# 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

**S**ummer is well underway and our crews are hard at work making sure you stay in power. Our forestry crew is out clearing right-of-way and dealing with problem trees. Keeping problem trees cut back and right-of-ways clear helps lessen the chance that summer storms will blow limbs into the lines and cause power outages. **6545-001** Our construction crew continues handling our day-to-day maintenance needs and our contractors are working on the three-phase upgrade that will strengthen the core of our system. As we keep busy this summer, we ask that you do your part by being careful around powerlines and mindful of our work crews as you travel around

Clay County. Be safe, slow down!

Our 78th Annual Meeting will be held next month on Aug. 25 at Oil Belt Christian Service Camp west of Flora. In the leadup to our annual meeting, we'd like to remind our members of our annual scholarship opportunity. Each year at the annual meeting, we draw three \$500 scholarships for the children of our members. To be eligible, they should be members of the graduating class of 2022 with plans to attend an accredited 2- or 4-year college or trade school. The form for the drawing can be found on page 6 and returned to the cooperative by mail or in person by Friday, Aug. 19. More details about the 78th

Annual Meeting will be coming in next month's magazine.

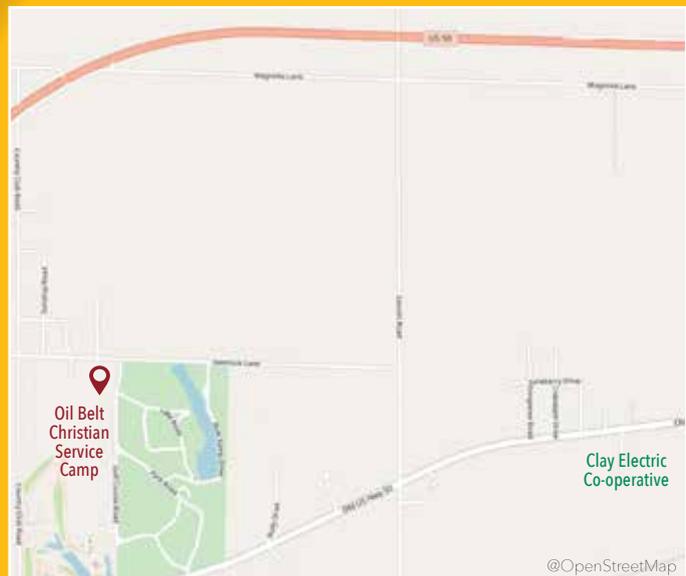
Don't forget to be on the lookout for your member number in the center section of this magazine. There are three member numbers hidden in Clay Electric News. If you find your number and give us a call you win \$5 off your next bill!



**Matt Conklin**  
*CEO*

# SAVE THE DATE!

**78th Annual Meeting**  
**Thursday, August 25, 2022**  
**Oil Belt Christian Service Camp**  
**555 Park Rd, Flora, IL 62839**



## Utility pole safety

Utility poles are not bulletin boards or support for satellite dishes and bird houses. These obstacles create a dangerous environment for line workers. Clay Electric Co-operative line crews climb utility poles at all hours of the day and night, in the worst of conditions. Anything attached to utility poles can create serious hazards for our line personnel.

Please help us keep our line-men and our community safe. Don't attach any of these unauthorized and dangerous items to utility poles.



Image courtesy of Butler Rural Electric Cooperative

## Did You Know?

Electric cooperatives have retired \$18 billion to members since 1988 – \$1.3 billion in 2019 alone.

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits.

Source: National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation



## 10 EASY WAYS TO \$AVE

Here are 10 habits you can tweak to save energy:

1. Use cold water to wash your clothes.
2. Unplug battery chargers when not in use.
3. Skip the heat-dry setting on your dishwasher.
4. Unplug appliances and electronics not in use.
5. Run full loads of laundry instead of several smaller ones.
6. When drying clothes, include a dry towel for the first 20 minutes.
7. Keep your refrigerator at 35° to 38°F and your freezer at 0°F.
8. Reduce the setting on your hot water heater.
9. Use smart power strips that shut off power to items not in use.
10. When buying new appliances, consider ENERGY STAR versions.



Learn more at:

 Safe Electricity.org®

# Know the signs of a scam

It's no secret that consumers with a water, gas or electricity connection have long been targets for utility scams, but fraudsters have changed their tactics since the COVID-19 pandemic. As consumers became more reliant on technology for work, school and commerce, scammers noted these shifts and adapted their tactics to this changed environment.

to disconnect your service if you don't pay immediately. Whether this is done in-person, by phone, text or email, the scammers want to scare you into immediate payment so you don't have time to think clearly.

If this happens over the phone, simply hang up. If you're concerned about your bill, call us at (800) 582-9012. Our phone number can also be

click or press a button to initiate the process. **8389-001** If you proceed, you will be prompted to provide banking or other personal information. Instead of money going into your bank account, the scammers can drain your account and use personal information such as a social security number for identity theft.

If this "refund" scam happens over the phone, just hang up and block the phone number to prevent future robo-calls. If this scam attempt occurs via email (known as a "phishing" attempt) or by text ("smishing"), do not click any links. Instead, delete it, and if possible, block the sender. If you do overpay on your energy bill, Clay Electric Co-operative will automatically apply the credit to your next billing cycle. When in doubt, contact us.

## Defend yourself against scams

Be wary of call or texts from unknown numbers. Be suspicious of an unknown person claiming to be a utility worker who requests banking or other personal information.

Never let anyone into your home that you don't know unless you have a scheduled appointment or reported a problem. When we perform work on our members' property or come into your home, our employees are professionals and will always identify themselves.

We want to help protect our community against utility scams, and you can help create the first line of defense. Please report any potential scams to us so we can spread the word to prevent others in the community from falling victim.



Imposter scams are the number one type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. While scam artists may come to your door posing as a utility worker who works for the "power company," in today's more connected world, attempts are more likely to come through an electronic device, via email, phone or text.

## Common types of scams

A scammer may claim you are overdue on your electric bill and threaten

found on your monthly bill and on our website, [www.ceci.coop](http://www.ceci.coop). If the scam is by email or text, delete it before taking any action. If you're unsure, you can always contact us at (800) 582-9012. Remember, Clay Electric Co-operative will never attempt to demand immediate payment after just one notice.

Some scammers may falsely claim you have been overcharged on your bill and say they want to give a refund. It sounds easy. All you have to do is



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.

# Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

May 23, 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, May 23, 2022.

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

The invocation was given by Kevin Logan 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 13 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.

**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.

**APPROVED**, the NRECA Resolution authorizing the amendment and restatement of the Retirement Security and/or 401(k) Pension Plan.

**APPROVED**, the Quarterly Loan Payment.

**REVIEWED** the CFC News.

**WERE UPDATED**, on the NRECA Newsletter.

**WERE UPDATED**, on NRECA Members Resolutions.

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

**DISCUSSED**, the SIPC Rate Design.

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

**WERE UPDATED**, on Board Training events specifically the ACES Conference, AIEC Annual Meeting, and Board class 971.

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

- Monthly Reconciliation;
- SIPC Power Delivered in April 2022;
- April 2022 Cash Flow;
- Line Loss;
- April 2022 Form 7;
- April 2022 Balance Sheet.

**REVIEWED** the Safety Report for the month of March.

**DISCUSSED** the Safety Committee Meeting to be held June 7, 2022.

**REVIEWED**, the Monday morning Safety meeting held May 23, 2022.

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

- Solar Farm Update;
- Operations Report;
- Communications Report;

■ Upcoming meetings.

**DISCUSSED**, the Solar Farm Update.

**REVIEWED**, the Operations Report.

**REVIEWED**, the Communications Report. **9426-001**

**WERE REMINDED**, of upcoming meetings on June 27, 2022, July 25, 2022, Aug. 29, 2022 and Sept. 26, 2022 at 7 p.m.

**REVIEWED**, thank you notes from Frontier College and Kaylee Scarbrough.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 8:25 p.m.



Our office will be closed  
Monday, July 4 for  
Independence Day.

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)

