

# 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

**T**he heat is here and with summer high temperatures in full swing, we encourage our members to conserve power where possible. Setting the thermostat to a higher temperature during the heat of the day or when no one is home can help keep energy costs in check. Set your ceiling fans to spin counterclockwise to produce a cooling breeze, avoid using high power appliances in the middle of the day, and turn off unused electronics to help limit the sting at bill time.

I'd like to again remind you that our 78th Annual Meeting will be held on August 25th at Oil Belt Christian Service Camp west of Flora. 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, August 19th.

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!

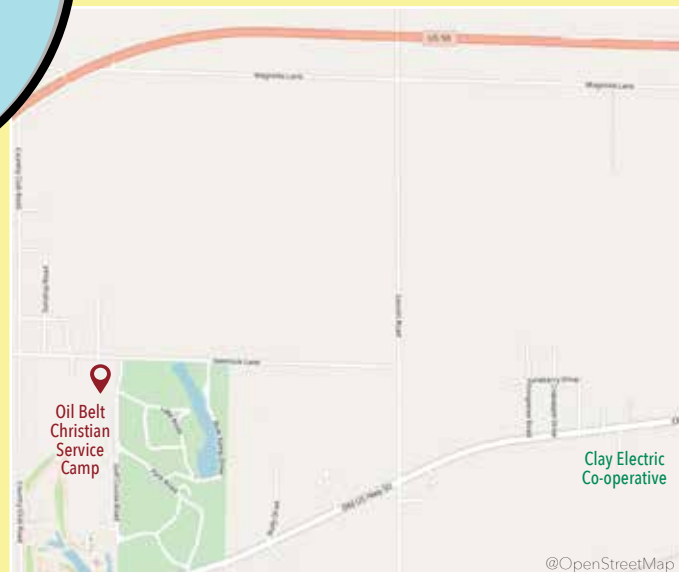


**Matt Conklin**  
CEO

Don't Forget



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



# FARM SAFETY

# FOR A SAFE HARVEST

Take these steps to help keep you and everyone on your farm safe during a busy harvest.

### Meet Daily

Have morning safety meetings to brief everyone on the day ahead and to discuss potential electrical hazards. Review power line locations, clearance requirements and the proper positioning of extensions for transporting.

### Train Others

Train anyone working on your farm, including seasonal workers and family members, on potential electrical hazards.

### Use a Spotter

Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines or poles. Always keep equipment and extensions at least 10 feet from power lines.

If your equipment makes contact with a power line, pole or guy wire, stay in the cab, call 9-1-1 and warn others to stay away.



Safe  
Electricity.org®

## 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.



## Play it safe near grain bins.

When moving equipment, be aware of power lines and maintain at least a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety. Follow all guidelines set by the National Electrical Safety Code.

# Driving behind farm equipment: Do your part

**S**pring planting and fall harvest are busy times. Farmers and workers have big equipment and implements on the road. **4960-002** Navigating roadways can be dangerous for farm equipment operators and auto drivers who follow behind them.

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 410 farmers and farm workers died from work-related injuries in 2019. Transportation incidents, which included tractor overturns, were the leading cause of death for these farmers and farm workers.

Follow these safety tips to make it safer for everyone involved.

## Equipment operators:

1. Make sure all flashers and lights are operational.
2. Drive as far to the right side of the road as possible when going around a curve.
3. Pull over and allow vehicles to pass when traffic builds up behind you.
4. Take care at railroad crossings.
5. Avoid traveling during busy traffic times.
6. Be mindful of the height and width of machinery, watching power lines, bridges and other hazards.
7. Along with turn signals, use hand signals.
8. Stay rested; do not drive when you are too tired or hungry.
9. Keep a first-aid kit in case of accidents.

## Auto drivers:

1. Think about how long it will take to get to your destination and add extra time for busy farm roads.

2. Give farmers plenty of room on the road. If a piece of equipment takes up the entire road, pull into a driveway or area and wait for them to pass.
3. When passing, be sure you do so in a passing zone and that there is clear visibility around farm equipment. Watch for oncoming vehicles.
4. Go slow. Farm operators often stop or turn into fields. In addition, cars going at or over the speed limit can catch up to farm machinery quickly, since farmers in equipment move slowly.
5. Do not assume that a farmer can move over in narrow areas; it is not always possible.
6. Honk or motion when passing farmers, they may not see you or

know you are there; their equipment is big and noisy.

7. Do not tailgate; the farmer often cannot see you.
8. Do not pass and then slow suddenly in front of equipment with implements behind it or farm trucks full of grain. They cannot stop quickly.
9. Farmers make very wide turns; give them plenty of time and room.

These are a few tips to make it safer for both the equipment operator and auto drivers and to provide a more pleasant drive for all.

For information about safety around electricity, including farm and ranch safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## Play it safe. That text can wait.



While driving, turn phone to silent mode  
or pull over if the text can't wait.

# Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

June 27, 2022

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the Clay Electric Cooperative Headquarters, Flora, Illinois beginning at 7:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, June 27, 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 Frank Herman and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. **5019-001**

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.

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

- **APPROVED**, the prior meeting minutes;
- **APPROVED**, (a) to admit to membership those 10 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 10 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 June write-offs.

**WERE ADVISED**, one of the Youth to Washington attendees cannot attend.

**APPROVED**, using the \$1500 from the Youth to Washington cancellation to create three additional \$500 scholarships for youth at the Annual Meeting.

**APPROVED**, purchasing a new server.

**WERE UPDATED**, on the CFC Report from the Board.

**WERE UPDATED**, on NRECA News and the NRECA Report.

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

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

**WERE UPDATED**, on Board Training and Events, specifically the Region 5 meeting, 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 May 2022;
- May 2022 Cash Flow;
- Line Loss;
- May 2022 Form 7;
- May 2022 Balance Sheet.

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

**REVIEWED**, the Monday morning safety meeting held June 27, 2022.

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

- Contractor Update with pictures;
- IRS Mileage Change;

- Clay Electric System Wire;
- Solar Farm Update;
- Operations Report;
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings.

**DISCUSSED**, the Contractor Update and reviewed pictures.

**WERE INFORMED**, the IRS mileage rate has changed to .625 beginning July 1, 2022.

**REVIEWED**, the Clay Electric System Wire including maps of 3 Phase Conductor and 1 Phase Conductor.

**HEARD** an update on the Solar Farm territory issues and reviewed the Maple Flats Map.


**REVIEWED**, the Operations Report.

**REVIEWED**, the Communications Report.

**WERE REMINDED**, of upcoming meetings on July 25, 2022, August 29, 2022, September 26, 2022, and October 31, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., as well as the **5251-001** Annual Meeting on August 25, 2022.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

## Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

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7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.  
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