

# Clay ELECTRIC News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

## From the Manager

I would like to thank all our members who were able to attend our 78th Annual Meeting in August. It was wonderful to be able to meet in person again. Thank you all for making your annual meeting a success this year.

I'm happy to report the completion of the core three-phase rebuild project we began this year. Our contractors have been excellent and finished the project under budget and ahead of schedule. If you see the contractors out working on our lines, make sure to slow down and be cautious. With the main project completed, we have decided to have the crew continue working on reliability upgrades on other parts of the system. This decision will not see additional member funds

used. Our contractors' safe and speedy work brought the project in cheaper than expected, and those unused funds from the three-phase upgrade will be used to further strengthen the system.

Our linemen and forestry crews continue to work hard to keep up the maintenance of the system and keep you in power. While the contractors have been building new line, our in-house linemen have been working on pole changeouts and the day-to-day maintenance that keeps the lights on. Our forestry crew continues scouring the system for problem trees to deal with before they fall through the lines and clearing right-of-way to ensure that equipment can make it back to where it must go in the event of an

outage. Your Clay Electric crews are out every day doing the work to keep you, the member, in power.

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!



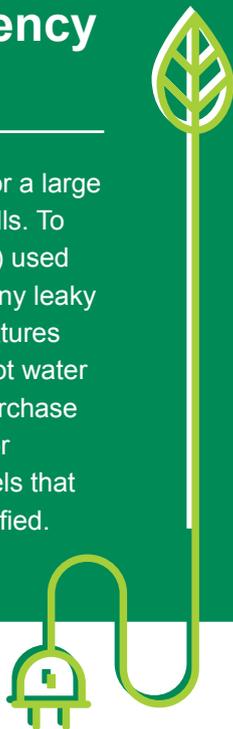
Matt Conklin  
CEO

## Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills. To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines. When it's time to purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are ENERGY STAR®-certified.

Source: Dept. of Energy



## National Voter Registration Day

Tuesday, September 20



Visit [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop) to ensure you're #voteready.

# The power of preparation

**W**ith severe weather events occurring more frequently, now more than ever it makes sense to be prepared. During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water and supplies to last at least a few days.

communicating with family and friends (i.e., via text, social media, third party, etc.)

- Have some extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.

you have an infant or young children, make certain that you have ample formula, diapers, medications and other supplies on hand to weather an outage lasting several days or more.

## Keeping four-legged family members safe

Having a plan in place for pets in the event of a prolonged outage or an emergency will also help reduce worry and stress, especially if you need to make a decision during an emergency.

- Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can become disoriented and frightened during severe weather and may wander off during an emergency.
- Microchip your pet and ensure the contact information is up to date.
- Store pet medical records on a USB drive or in an easy-to-remember location.
- Create an emergency kit for pets (include shelf-safe food, bottled water, medications and other supplies).

At Clay Electric Cooperative, we care about your safety. Planning for an emergency situation today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future.



In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, I want to remind members of our community about the power of preparation. While you don't have to achieve a "doomsday" level of preparedness, there are several practical steps you can take to keep you and your family safe.

Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress and anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event. We recommend starting with the basics.

Here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and phone chargers.
- Develop a plan for

- Store important documents (birth certificates, property deed, etc.) in safe place away from home (for example, a bank safe deposit box).
- Keep neighbors and co-workers apprised of your emergency plans. **8275-002**
- Fill your car with gas.
- Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.

## Caring for vulnerable family members

If you have older family members or those with special needs, make sure they have enough medication and supplies for a few days. If they don't live with you, arrange for a neighbor to check in on them. If a severe weather event is expected, consider having your relative stay with you if feasible, otherwise call them daily. If



# Stay safe on your ranch or farm

**T**here are all types of precautions ranchers and farmers take to stay safe. Electrical hazards, however, can sometimes be overlooked since electricity is not seen or heard, and overhead power lines can become part of the landscape.

Here are some electrical safety tips to implement on your farm or ranch:

- In general, look for exposed energized parts and unguarded electrical equipment that could become energized unexpectedly.
- Be careful when operating watering tanks with electric pumps. In addition, sprays of water from irrigation systems should not be near overhead power lines.
- Inspect electrical fencing regularly to ensure that everything is tight and secure and that no parts are frayed. A sagging fence not only means that animals could escape, but it can also create electrical issues.
- Ensure your electric fence is well supported. **7142-001** A lack of support can cause it to sag.
- Make sure electric fencing is visible by using electric fence tape, warning signs or other methods.
- Cap posts, especially metal T-posts, to prevent an animal (or human) from becoming impaled.
- Be aware of overhead power lines when moving bales of hay.
- Do not store hay bales under power lines.



- Be aware that tarps that cover hay can come loose and blow in heavy winds, sometimes causing an outage if the tarp gets too close or contacts a power line.
- When using a generator and double throw switch, make sure they are in good working order and up to code.
- Check electrical center pivot equipment before and after use to ensure it is grounded, that the housing is protected and that the wiring is sound (this protects livestock and people).
- Ensure that irrigation equipment is regularly inspected. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for inspection and maintenance.
- Always turn off the power before working on an irrigation system.
- After a storm, make sure the system has not become ungrounded due to lightning.
- Position irrigation pipes at least 15 feet away from power lines; also, store unused pipes away from power lines.
- Always be aware of overhead power line locations and use a spotter when working close to lines or poles.
- Follow safe digging procedures; call 8-1-1 to have underground utilities marked before breaking ground.

To learn more about electrical safety on the ranch or farm or in general, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.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.

# Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

## July 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 in Flora, Illinois, beginning at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 25, 2022.

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

The invocation was given by Frank Czyzewski and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. **5022-001**

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 13 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 NCSC Report from the Board.

**APPROVED**, the NRECA 401K and RS Plan Restatement.

**APPROVED**, the revision of Policy 200-1 to change Budget billing penalties to match the other billing penalties at CECI.

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

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

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

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

**WERE UPDATED**, On Region 5 meeting in Minneapolis in September.

**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 July 25, 2022.

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

- Contractor Update
- Operations Report;
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings.

**APPROVED**, spending remainder of contractor loan funds for contracts to continue work on Time and Equipment rates.

**REVIEWED**, the Operations Report.

**REVIEWED**, the Communications Report.

**WERE REMINDED**, of upcoming meetings on Aug. 22, 2022, Sept. 26, 2022, Oct. 24, 2022 and Nov. 28, 2022 at 7 p.m. as well as the Annual Meeting on Aug. 25, 2022.

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

## What to do before using a PORTABLE GENERATOR



### Prepare

Install battery operated carbon monoxide (CO) alarms throughout your home, ensure they are working properly.



### Position

Place a portable generator at least 20 feet from windows and doors; do not use one in a garage or carport.



### Read

Carefully review and then follow all manufacturer's instructions.



### Protect

If it is wet outside, keep it dry by placing it on a tarp. Position it under a portable canopy (not a carport).



### Refuel Safely

Turn off your portable generator and let it cool down before refueling.



### Inspect and Maintain

Inspect a portable generator before each use and make sure it is properly maintained.



Using a portable generator can be useful during an outage; however, use one correctly to prevent CO poisoning and to stay safe.

Safe Electricity.org

## Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

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7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

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